



## Sustaining Reliability

**W**e've all heard the phrase, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket." This popular adage reminds us that plans that depend too much on a single detail are risky. Good plans always include multiple options or contingencies to ensure success.

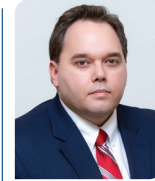
This strategy is how I describe Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's commonsense approach to the current energy transition.

Nationally, there is growing attention — especially in our nation's public policy arena — on renewable energy sources. Solar and wind energy are certainly beneficial for the environment, but they are limited resources. The sun does not always shine, and the wind does not always blow.

This focus on renewables comes at a time when fossil fuel plants are being taken off-line — often ahead of schedule — and we're seeing more pressure on the electric grid due to severe weather events and rising demand for energy.

So how do we reconcile these challenges of added demand and a changing fuel mix?

That's where this familiar adage comes into play. While utilization



### Manager's Message

*Brad Coppock*  
General Manager

of renewables is increasing, we still need to incorporate other forms of energy in the mix to ensure reliable service. Our primary responsibility is to provide electricity 24/7 to you and our communities. To do this, we need reliable sources of power that will meet all the peaks and valleys of on-demand energy in our increasingly connected world.

That's why we spread our eggs among multiple baskets. There is great value in maintaining a diverse mix of fuel sources — fossil fuels and renewables to ensure reliability, resiliency and price stability while meeting the growing demand for energy.

As our nation increasingly depends on electricity to power the economy, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative is working to anticipate, plan and respond to market trends and policy shifts. That's how we can power your home and our economy while continuing to serve as your local energy provider.

## Fiber Update Info

as of 2/19/2024

Miles of backbone – 1,801

Services installed to the home – 8,660

### CONTACT US

420 Straight Creek Road, P.O. Box 1528  
New Tazewell, TN 37824

### Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Web  Email  
pve.coop info@pve.coop

### Jonesville Office

All Inquiries: 276-346-6003

### Sneedville Office

All Inquiries: 423-733-2207

### Tazewell Office

All Inquiries: 423-626-5204

### General Manager

Brad Coppock

### Director of Operations

Travis Tolliver

### Jonesville Area Supervisor

Jason Stapleton

### Sneedville Area Supervisor

Joey Southern

### Tazewell Area Supervisor

Tyler DeBusk

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Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.*

## PVEC Employee Celebrates Service Anniversary



Powell Valley Electric Cooperative employee Travis Tolliver recently celebrated a service anniversary with the cooperative. Employees receive awards beginning with their fifth year of employment and at five-year intervals thereafter. Tolliver is director of operations and has served the members of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative for 20 years. He is presented his award by General Manager Brad Coppock.

# Whatever It Takes

## Powering life — from a lineworker's perspective

Lineworkers are ranked as having one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the country. The lineworkers at Powell Valley Electric Cooperative work rain or shine, in often challenging conditions to ensure you have reliable electricity. That's why we're celebrating Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 8.

Linework is hard work, but it's very rewarding. We hope this will give you a better look into what lineworkers face and, more importantly, why they do it.

### THE DANGER

A lot of people know linework is dangerous because the work is near high-voltage electricity. Move just the wrong way or lose focus for a split second, and it could be deadly. Lineworkers have to be aware of their surroundings and the safety of the person next to them. They often work on energized power lines, which can't always be identified as energized by looking at them. Lineworkers work with an element of danger that requires concentration, and there is no margin for error. The environment compounds the pressure, because when power is needed most is usually when the weather is worst. They often work in storms with rain, wind, extreme heat and cold, in the dark, or on the side of the road next to fast-moving traffic. Yes, it's dangerous, but that's what they are trained to do.

Many may not realize it, but lineworkers undergo years of training before they can officially be called a lineworker. They typically start as a groundman, helping crews with tools and keeping job sites safe. Then they transition to apprentice status, which typically spans four years. After an apprenticeship, with more than 7,000 hours of training under their belts, they transition to journeyman lineworker status — that's when lineworkers are considered officially trained in their field.

But the education is ongoing.



## NATIONAL LINWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

Lineworkers continuously receive training to stay mindful of and learn new procedures.

### THE PHYSICAL DEMAND

The daily expectations of a lineworker are physically demanding, but you won't hear any of them complain about that. They know what they signed up for — loading heavy materials, climbing poles and in and out of buckets. A lot of times, they go places the trucks can't, so they might be hiking through the woods loaded down with 40 pounds of personal protective equipment.

### THE SACRIFICES

There are some sacrifices to being a lineworker. They're often first on the scene of an emergency, seeing things that are devastating like car accidents, structure fires and damage from severe storms. They often don't know what type of situation they are going to face or when they are going to face it. They get calls at all hours, even in the middle of the night. Many have missed a lot of ballgames and family dinners, but lineworkers' families are very supportive. Lineworkers make sure there is nothing standing in the way of helping their friends and neighbors get back to normal life.

### IT'S WORTH IT

One thing that makes this job worthwhile is the camaraderie. The co-op is like a second family, and the line crews are a brotherhood. In this work, they have to depend on the person beside them in life-or-death circumstances. It's a culture of trust, teamwork and service. It's all about keeping the teammate beside you safe and the lights on for everybody else.

Lineworkers have a lot of pride in their work. Even when it's cold and wet, they know they are working to keep people warm. There's a lot of satisfaction in hearing someone yell "thank you" from the window after the lights come back on, or seeing people flipping the light switches on their porches after an outage is restored. Many of our lineworkers have said no matter how tired they are or how long they have been working, that feeling always makes it worth it.

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative and its employees are members of this community. We live in the same neighborhoods. We shop at the same stores. Our kids go to the same schools. If your lights are off, there is a good chance ours are off, too. So, you can trust that we are doing our best to get the lights back on as quickly and safely as possible — so you can get back to normal life.

# Add Lawn Tools to Spring Cleaning To-Do List



**A**s you open the windows and start spring-cleaning your home, add another item to your to-do list: Clean your lawn tools. Your electric lawnmower, weed trimmer and hedge trimmer have been cooped up and unused for months. And you'll need to do more than knock the dust off of them.

Cordless lawnmowers and power tools need regular cleaning and maintenance so they operate properly. Good news: They're easier to take care of than gas-powered tools.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning your specific models. Generally:

- Remove the tool's battery before you get started, and slip on a sturdy pair of gloves to protect your hands.
- Use a dry cloth to wipe down the device and remove cobwebs, dust, loose dirt and dead bugs.
- With a plastic scraper or a bristle brush, scrub off dried mud and grass all over the device, even underneath.
- Damp-clean the machine all over with a wet cloth, but steer clear of the motor. Take extra care around the blade.
- Look for cracks on the casing and determine if the tool is still usable. Check that the handle is tight and sturdy. Inspect the blade for rust.
- Fully charge the tool, replacing the battery if it has become damaged over the winter.

# Revenue-Neutral Rate Change

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative has always made the delivery of affordable and reliable electricity to our members a priority. As a member-owned Cooperative, we continually evaluate our rates and fees to maintain long-term financial health while also providing affordability and greater reliability.

Starting April 1, 2024, your Cooperative will be implementing a revenue-neutral rate change that involves decreasing the energy charge component while slightly increasing the fixed customer charge. The term "revenue-neutral" means that the overall revenue generated from the increase in customer charges will be offset by a reduction in energy charges; therefore, the Cooperative will not receive additional revenue. This adjustment is designed to better align our revenue with the costs of maintaining and upgrading our infrastructure, especially during periods of high demand.

## WHAT THIS MEANS FOR RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS

In 2023, the average residential member used 1,072 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month at a cost of \$121.22. After the revenue-neutral adjustment, the average member's bill will remain the same. Residential members using more than 1,072 kWh per month will have a slight decrease in their monthly bill, and, conversely, residential members using less than 1,072 kWh will have a slight increase in their monthly bill.

## WHAT IS A CUSTOMER CHARGE?

The customer charge is the fixed amount of the bill each month that covers the costs of providing service to each location. These costs include the purchase of meters, poles, transformers, clearing rights-of-way, some administrative expenses such as generating, printing and mailing monthly bills, as well as the continued maintenance of all facilities.

We understand that any change to rates can impact our members, and we want to assure our members that it is not taken lightly. It is important to recognize that this change is imperative to meet the rising energy demands, uphold service reliability, and ensure the long-term financial health of the Cooperative.

# Safety Tips

Shane Bunch  
Safety Coordinator



As the temperature rises, you may find yourself turning on your air conditioner more often. Ensure your HVAC system's safety by utilizing the following tips:

- **Regular inspections.** Schedule routine inspections for your HVAC system, focusing on electrical components such as wiring, switches and circuit breakers.
- **Qualified installations.** Ensure that HVAC systems are installed by licensed professionals who adhere to safety standards. Proper installation reduces the risk of electrical faults and ensures optimal performance.
- **Emergency shut-off.** Know the location of emergency shut-off switches for your HVAC system. In case of electrical issues or emergencies, being able to cut power quickly can prevent further damage or potential hazards.
- **Professional repairs.** Avoid DIY repairs on HVAC electrical components. If you suspect a problem, contact a qualified HVAC technician to assess and address the issue. Attempting repairs without proper knowledge can lead to accidents or further damage.

## Summer Peak



Every month of the calendar year has a peak hour. Demand charges set during this 60-minute period influence the wholesale power bill. This is why we want to share with you information about the summer peak months.

The summer peak months, April through October, are here. Below are some tips for these months to help lower the peak and not change our way of life. Summer peaks are most likely to occur on the hottest days in the late afternoon between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., when families turn up the AC to keep cool.

### WAYS TO BEAT THE PEAK

1. Turn your thermostat up a degree or two between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. After these peak hours, set your thermostat back to its normal setting.
2. Use major appliances such as washing machines, clothes dryers and dishwashers before 3 p.m. or after 6 p.m.
3. Delay using hot water as much as possible until after 6 p.m. Wait awhile before washing those dishes.
4. Turn off all unnecessary lights during peak hours.
5. Close window shades and drapes to help keep heat out during the peak hours of 3-6 p.m.

# PVEC Attends Legislative Conference



Tennessee State Capitol

In February, more than 175 electric cooperative leaders from across the state gathered in Nashville for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's 2024 Legislative Conference. Electric co-op members and employees in attendance had important conversations about energy and policy that will impact electric co-ops and the rural and suburban communities they serve.

Attendees at the event heard from political strategists and policy advisors as well as Tennessee leaders, including advisors to Gov. Bill Lee and Secretary of State Tre Hargett. General Manager Brad Coppock, directors Bill Surber and Tracey Sharp were in attendance to represent Powell Valley Electric Cooperative. They met with legislators to build relationships and discuss policies that could have significant impacts on PVEC's membership.

## PVECFiber Options

LOCAL - NO DATA CAPS - FASTER SPEEDS - NO CONTRACTS

100Mbps/100Mbps \$59.95/month	500Mbps/500Mbps \$79.95/month
700Mbps/700Mbps \$89.95/month	1Gig/1Gig \$99.95/month