



The Light Issue

of the Current Communicator

Winter 2016

News for the member-owners of Central Virginia Electric Cooperative



Weather, Wires and Danger Trees

CVEC anticipated and was prepared for a huge snowstorm at the end of January and another storm in mid-February. Both storms had the potential to be major weather events, particularly if they delivered heavy, wet snow or freezing rain. Fortunately, January temperatures were lower than expected. The cold, dry snow bypassed the tree branches and fell to the ground. With a few exceptions we were spared the loss of electric service, staying warm at home while we waited for the roads to be cleared. The Presidents' Day storm in mid-February caused

about 2200 outages due to ice accumulation on the trees and wires, followed by saturated soil from snow melt and rain.

Mother Nature spared us from extended and widespread outages caused by a **major weather event**, one of three categories of power outages and one category in which we have the least control over the outcome.

A second category of power outages is caused by the loss of wholesale energy from the **transmission system**. As a distribution cooperative, CVEC is dependent on the transmission line operators to deliver power to our substations. As with major weather events, we have little control over the outcome of conditions beyond our distribution system.

A third category of power outages **does** present an opportunity for CVEC to improve and to protect service reliability. With more than 4500 miles of medium-voltage distribution line running through the rural portions of 14 counties, our efforts **to maintain and to clear vegetation** in the 40 feet of rights-of-way (ROW) below and along the power lines has a direct impact on service reliability. Recently, CVEC doubled the annual ROW budget to \$2.8 million to accelerate our progress. Those efforts have expanded to include culling dead, diseased, or leaning trees growing outside of the right-of-way. These "danger trees" are the leading cause of outages on the distribution system. In 2015, CVEC cut 3000 and trimmed another 700 danger trees.

What can we do to mitigate these outages?

While we have little control over **major weather events**, our ROW efforts do mitigate the impact when major storms arise.

In addressing the dependence on the **transmission systems**, CVEC constructs alternate feeds from the transmission system whenever possible. One nearly-complete alternate feed will soon provide an alternate energy path to a string of CVEC substations along and south of the Interstate 64 corridor.

Lastly, CVEC is adding more fuses and reclosers along the **distribution lines** to reduce the impact of outages by sectionalizing the system.

Our progress with these projects will move us toward our goal:
high reliability and satisfaction for you, the member. 💡

During the coming year, CVEC will be working on several projects across our grid:

1. Crews and authorized contractors will be working to reconductor overhead and underground lines (*replacing older, smaller wire with larger wire that has more capacity for future growth*).
2. Crews will also be performing pole inspections and trimming rights-of-ways throughout the service territory.
3. You will be notified by post card, brochure, and/or phone call when work will happen in your area. All crews who are NOT Co-op employees will have signs identifying them as CVEC contractors.



CVEC Directors Set Gold Standard:

At the January 2016 meeting of the CVEC Board of Directors, **Chair Roberta I. Harlowe** and **Treasurer George N. Goin**, both of Fluvanna County, were presented the **Director Gold Certificates** by **CEO Gary Wood** and **Vice Chair H. T. Brown**. Wood says, “Roberta and George are among the first Directors in the nation to receive the Director Gold Award, a national award for accomplishment of co-op leadership and business principle education.”

Director Training is one of the many member programs offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). CVEC’s Board of Directors is committed to effective management of the Co-op and participates in these programs. This achievement acknowledges completion of two certificate curriculums: the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate (CCD) and the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC). The courses cover everything from foundational governance knowledge to in-depth skills specific to management of electric co-ops. Nationwide, more than 65 percent of eligible directors have earned CCD certificates, 28 percent have obtained the BLC, and some have earned both.

Harlowe commented, “As a member-owned utility, the CVEC directors are elected by the membership to ensure that our Cooperative policies and business direction are designed to generate the highest member satisfaction.”

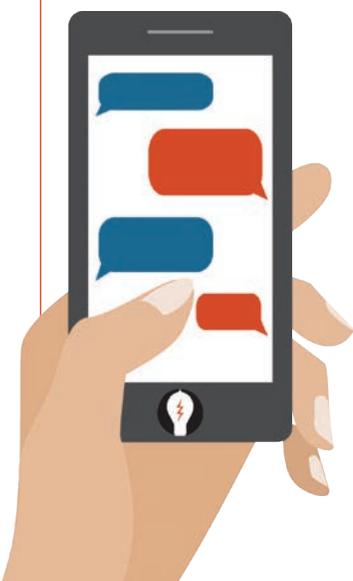
Goin added, “I have taken great pride and satisfaction in seeing how CVEC, as an electric cooperative utility, has improved the lives of people in central Virginia by delivering reliable energy at the lowest possible cost. Our goal as Directors is to provide effective oversight and to look out for the best interest of the members. We work hard to ensure that happens.”

The Cooperative thanks these two Directors for their commitment to their continued education and for their service on the Board. 💡



Left to Right: CEO Gary Wood, Chair Roberta I. Harlowe, Treasurer George N. Goin, and Vice Chair H. T. Brown

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CVEC Outage Texting is now live!

CVEC members now have the option of outage notification on their mobile phones by text. Sign up for this service and you will be able to:

- ✓ quickly and simply report an outage at your home or business with a simple **#out** texted to **85700**.
- ✓ be informed of an outage as soon as our system registers that your service is out (great for when you’re away from home!).
- ✓ get status updates ... including a text that tells you when your power is back on, whether you are at home or away!

To sign up, go to mycvec.com/texting. You’ll find full instructions and FAQs.

Questions? Contact us at ms@mycvec.com or **800-367-2832**. 💡

Have you signed up for e-Biz?

It's easy!

Click the **Access MyCVEC** icon at the bottom of the home page of

www.mycvec.com

- ✓ View your account history
- ✓ Watch your daily/monthly energy usage
- ✓ Enter a service request
- ✓ Sign up for paperless billing & online bill pay



What’s a lumen?

New energy-saving bulbs can save money. But how do you choose them?

Lumens measure brightness. All bulbs must now tell you how bright they are so you can fairly compare the different types.

They also must tell you:

- ✓ Est. yearly cost
- ✓ Life expectancy
- ✓ Warm or cool light
- ✓ Energy used (and *THERE’s our old friend, the watt!*)

Read more at mycvec.com/my-energy

Lighting Facts Per Bulb	
Brightness	510 lumens
Estimated Yearly Energy Cost	\$7.83
Based on 3 hrs/day, 11¢/kWh Cost depends on rates and use	
Life	1.8 years
Based on 3 hrs/day	
Light Appearance	
Warm ▲ ▼ Cool	
2650 K	
Energy Used	65 watts
Contains Mercury	
For more on clean up and safe disposal, visit epa.gov/cfl .	