



"Improving the quality of your life in a quietly impressive way." Spring 2014 Volume 23, Number 1

# WHOLESALE ENERGY REPORT

# **Building A Diversified Power Portfolio**

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Due to snow make-up days in the Nelson County Schools, CVEC's 77th Annual Meeting has been moved to Wednesday, June 25, 2014, same place & time!

**CVEC** members collectively consume over 700 million kilowatt-hours annually, powering heat pumps, water heaters, well pumps, refrigerators, televisions, lights, computers, and a variety of appliances and gadgets.

Our lives are much more comfortable and convenient with the power of electric energy at our fingertips.

Not surprisingly, it takes a lot of planning to make sure that CVEC can deliver an adequate supply of wholesale energy to our members, from an energy market that has changed significantly. CVEC used to purchase energy from VEPCO or APCO, at a price approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), because those two for-profit utilities owned and operated the transmission lines that delivered power to the Co-op's substations.

Beginning in 1992 with the passage of the Energy Policy Act, wholesale electric energy began to be deregulated. The rationale was that energy sales would be competitive and prices would fall.

CVEC was fortunate to sign a 10-year, favorably-priced energy contract in 2002. That contract featured one flat rate for every megawatt-hour used by CVEC members, otherwise known as an all-requirements contract.

In the years leading up to the end of the last wholesale contract in 2012, your Coop sought bids from a variety of sources,

Continued on page 2

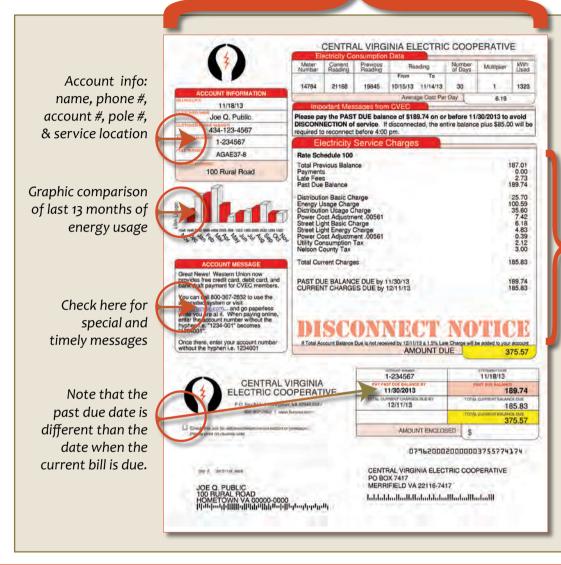


### Energy Requirements vs. Purchases

# HOW TO READ YOUR CVEC BILL

# Ever feel confused about all of the info found on your bill? Here's a quick primer to better understand.

## Front of bill



#### **Distribution Basic**

\$5.75/metering & billing and \$19.95/ cost of distribution connection prior to energy usage

**Energy Usage** 7.603¢ per kWh

**Distribution Usage** 2.691¢ per kWh for cost of distribution system to move energy from substation

**Power Cost Adjustment** Monthly adjustment related to fuel costs

#### Continued from page 1

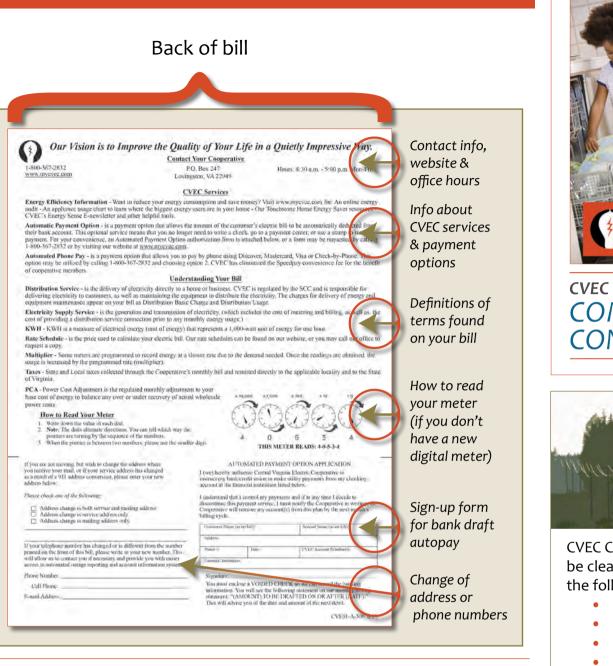
but found that the wholesale energy market had changed in that decade. Traditional energy generators were joined by commodity traders and investment bankers. Prices were much higher. The risk was shifted to buyers like CVEC, as was the cost of ancillary services.

CVEC negotiated a new contract with Constellation Energy, covering most of its requirements. The contract began in June of 2012 at a higher rate with CVEC being responsible for capacity charges and other items previously absorbed by the seller.

# So how has CVEC adapted to changes in the wholesale energy market?

At the end of the Constellation Energy contract in June of 2015, CVEC will move from a single supplier, that provides most of our energy needs, to a diversified portfolio approach composed of multiple smaller contracts, from a variety of sources, and of various contract durations.

The Co-op has determined that a diversity of fuel sources, suppliers, geographic locations, and risk profiles will help avoid any sudden, extreme rate increase in the future. Gas, coal, nuclear, wind, and hydro will all be included in the fuel mix powering generators owned by suppliers. Over the past several years, CVEC has established a portfolio of smaller



contracts of varied durations with a number of wholesale suppliers with assets in different locations. The Co-op has also acquired a 28-megawatt interest in the output from a natural gas plant, as well as 4 megawatts of wind power and 8 megawatts of hydroelectric produced energy (see chart at the bottom of page 1 for more details).

Utilizing a hedging strategy with risk management controls will permit CVEC to ensure an adequate supply of energy featuring steady pricing well into the foreseeable future. CVEC does anticipate a higher energy cost beginning in June of 2014 due to elevated capacity charges. Members should anticipate about a 1¢ per kilowatt-hour increase for one year. In June of 2015, there will be a slight decrease in rates when energy costs should drop due to the implementation of the diversified energy portfolio. Look for more information in future newsletters. **?** 

# CVEC DELIVERS VALUE: COMFORT & CONVENIENCE



CVEC Contract crews will be clearing rights of way in the following areas:

- Oakville
- Concord
  - Appomattox
- Roseland
- Tyro
- Montebello
- Kidd's Store

Helicopter trimming:

- Tyro
- Montibello
- Batesville
- Shipman
- Schuyler
- Howardsville
- Coffeetown
- Faber
- Forks of Buffalo





# Nelson festival

CVEC will be on-site at the 2014 Nelson Community Day to be held at Oakland Museum on Saturday, April 19. Along with other safety and energy-saving exhibits, CVEC will have the popular "Live Line" demonstration. The festival will include other community exhibitors, music, artisans, children's activities, and a variety of wineries and breweries. **?** 

# Red Cross project

The Virginia Mountain **Region of the American** Red Cross is collecting Comfort Kits for families here at home who are victims of a fire or natural disaster and for troops in the Mid-East. If any CVEC member would like to participate, there are bags with lists of suggested items available in each of our division offices. The filled bags can be returned to CVEC to be sent to the Red Cross. The deadline to return bags is May 30. 🕈

# They're here!

Prepaid Service, Summary Billing and Recurring Online Payments are all now available to CVEC members:

- Prepaid Service:
  "Pay as you Go" electric service
- Summary Payment: Pay once for multiple bills online
- Recurring Online
  Payments:

Set-up recurring payments online using your debit or credit card.

More info about all can be found on **Products & Services** pages at www. mycvec.com! •

#### STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION:

Central Virginia Electric Cooperative is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc,) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (Voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D,C. 20250-9410, or call toll free (800) 795-3272 (Voice) or (202)720-6382(TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.