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Enter Our Holiday
Coloring Contest!

Heating Assistance is
Available

“Watts” Inside

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PowerLines



**May peace be your gift at Christmas and
your blessing all year through!**

Follow-Up and Update

by Matthew Boshaw, CEO & General Manager

In October, my article discussed our ability to maintain our rate through 2022 while all other costs were rising. I also discussed the likelihood of a 2023 rate increase, the myriad of items that are creating upward rate pressures, and the efforts we have made to mitigate them. At the risk of being redundant, I would like to remind you of a few of those items, as well as provide an update regarding some things that have transpired in the meantime.

Supply chain issues, inflation, changing market rates, and grid stability are just a few of the items that have led to our neighboring investor-owned utilities increasing their rates twice in 2022. Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) members have not had a rate increase since February 2020 and did not have one in 2022.

However, CEC is not immune to upward rate pressures created by significant inflation, supply chain, and the closure of generating supply stations, but we were able to delay and mitigate concerns. We began increasing our inventory of critical materials in anticipation of the supply chain concerns. This has served us well in two ways. We purchased the material prior to some of the significant cost increases caused by inflation and prior to many of these commodities becoming scarce.

The largest cost we have is our generation and transmission services. We purchase all our generation and transmission resources from Allegheny

Electric Cooperative (Allegheny). This relationship and our not-for-profit cooperative business model has further delayed and mitigated the impact of these rate pressures. While we are less exposed, we are not immune to upward rate pressures in the market and, as I shared in October, we are expecting an increase from our supplier — although we are expecting it to be less than those of surrounding investor-owned utilities.

A lot has happened since that article was published and we now have more information we can provide. The mid-term elections are complete, another quarter of market pricing has influenced rates, interest rates increased, and the Allegheny board has taken action on 2023 rates and efforts to mitigate them.

Because we had an understanding of where rates were headed in October, we communicated that information to you. Now that we have more information, we can provide you with what we know. CEC's Board of Directors is working with staff to approve a necessary budget and rate increase to maintain the financial health of the cooperative. At the time I am drafting this article, we know the additional costs from Allegheny and the impact that will have on our budget, but the final rate impact to our members has not yet been approved by the board.

Follow-Up ... /Page 3

“What I can share is that CEC will need to increase the rate in 2023 in the range of 14%-16%. We will provide information on the exact amount on our website and other communication outlets as soon as it is approved.”

Matt Boshaw, CEO &
General Manager



Follow-Up ... /From Page 2

What I can share is that CEC will need to increase the rate in 2023 in the range of 14%-16%. We will provide information on the exact amount on our website and other communication outlets as soon as it is approved.

We are also considering ways we can utilize patronage capital to mitigate the impact of this increase. We will continue to share as much information as possible as it becomes available to assist in your future planning.



The Safety Linke



Don't be a stranger, to electrical danger.

Decorating Dangers



Manager of Safety
& Loss Control

Dylan Linke

The holidays are always a joyful time of year! However, the cheer and seasonal festivities can occasionally take a toll on our ability to think logically and make rational decisions about safety.

It may be a rare occurrence, but in the U.S., more than 12,000 people are treated in the emergency room (ER) each year due to falls, cuts, electrical shocks and burns from faulty holiday decorations or accidents that occur while putting decorations up.

Unfortunately, the holiday season means many people pay less attention to their safety and the safety of those around them. Emergency physicians urge people to take the extra time and care as they

go about enjoying the holidays.

Safety is not just a work thing – it's a lifestyle! During the holiday season with all the stress, tight schedules, crowds, and extra work, don't forget to take extra caution and practice the following steps: STOP — take five minutes for safety and think about the activities you'll be doing. Think about the possible risks of what you're doing — whether it's your regular job or hanging up Christmas decorations. We must be vigilant to ensure we're around for holiday celebrations to come.

From all of us at CEC, we wish you the happiest and safest holiday season!

CEC's Photo Contest Winners

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2022 Photo Contest! We started with 32 entries and with the help of over 3,200 votes, the three winning photos were chosen. Watch for information on our 2023 Photo Contest in your spring Power Lines newsletters or on our website. Congratulations to our winners!



First Place: Dancers Don't Need Wings to Fly, Christina Savannah of Butler



Second Place: Mother and Baby, Donna Shelatree of Venus



Third Place: Excuse Me, But Your Feeder is Empty, Kathy Palla of Chicora

Meter Readings

with **Laura Prosser**

Supervisor of
Member Services



Households struggling to pay heating bills this winter may qualify for assistance. If you have questions about the options available to you, please contact our Member Services team at 800-521-0570.

LIHEAP

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded grant program that helps low-income households with home energy bills. This year's program offers grants ranging from \$300-\$1,000 to income eligible families, sent directly to your heating utility company or fuel provider. Additional crisis grants may be available for emergency situations.

The current LIHEAP program began Nov. 1, 2022 and will end Apr. 28, 2023. To be eligible, you do not need to receive public assistance or have an unpaid

Heating Assistance is Available

heating bill. Homeowners and renters can apply.

To see if you qualify for LIHEAP, visit www.compass.state.pa.us or call the LIHEAP Hotline at 1-866-857-7095 to request an application. You may also visit your county's assistance office to apply.

Family Fund

CEC's Family Fund is an energy assistance program for members with a permanent residence on CEC lines. Funds for this program are raised through the Round-Up Program, unclaimed capital credits, and one-time donations from employees and members.

Members who meet certain qualifications can apply for Family Fund by contacting our office. Applicants must have a current disconnection notice and have been a member for a minimum of six months. Members must also be approved for LIHEAP during the current season; however, it is not a requirement that LIHEAP funds were received by CEC.

2023 CEC Line Clearing

CEC will begin tree trimming in January to reduce outages and service interruptions caused by trees. Contracted line clearing crews will work on circuits originating from the Clearfield, Cowansville, Rimersburg and Rockland substations.

Spraying will also take place on circuits originating from Sandycreek, Bullion and Nectarine substations. Pole inspections will take place on the Prospect and Saxonburg Substation feeders. These projects will last throughout 2023.

CEC will utilize Hazlett Tree Service, Davey Tree Service, Pittman Tree Service and Wright Tree Service. CEC members may encounter contracted crews. All contractors carry company issued identification.

CEC respects property owners' rights and will complete the work as quickly and professionally as possible. If you have any questions, please contact CEC's Forestry Supervisor, Brice Stewart at 800-521-0570 x2210.

Newsletter Survey Winners!

Congratulations to the six winners of a \$25 bill credit for taking the Newsletter Survey published in the September edition of this newsletter.

John Campbell Jr. of Lucinda

Leona Rice of Franklin

Gary Snyder of Tionesta

Philip Slater of Butler

John Crawford of New Bethlehem

Wayne Sankey of Cranberry

Holiday Coloring Contest

Hey kids! Enter our Holiday Coloring Contest for a chance to win a prize! The deadline is Jan. 13, 2023. The contest is open to CEC members' children and grandchildren ages 5-12. The following groups will be judged together: ages 5-7, 8-10 and 11-12. CEC employees' children and grandchildren are ineligible. Mail entry to: Central Electric Cooperative, Attn: Holiday Coloring Contest, P.O. Box 329, Parker, PA 16049.

Merry Christmas!



Child's Name: _____ Age: _____ CEC Account #: _____

Member's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Recipe of the Month

Ginger Cookies

Ingredients:

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup shortening
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 3 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 tablespoon vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup molasses
- 6-1/2 cups flour

Directions:

Heat the oven to 375 degrees. Cream sugar and shortening, then add eggs and cream together. In a separate bowl, add the baking soda and buttermilk together, then add to the mixture. Add vinegar, flour, molasses and spices. Chill the mixture. When ready to roll, mix with a little flour. Roll out and cut with your favorite cookie cutter. Bake for 12 minutes.

*Thank you to Marge Terwilliger
for submitting this recipe!*

CEC Management Team

Matthew P. Boshaw
CEO & General Manager

Chester Conti
Director of Finance and
Accounting/CFO

Christopher W. Kossman
Director of Information Technology

Stephanie Deal
Director of Human Resources

Fred E. Terwilliger
Assistant General Manager/COO

Lisa A. Hoover
Director of Member Services

Read Power Lines and Win!

Last Issue's Winner:

John Policaro of New Brighton

Last Issue's E-Winner:

Calvin Weaver of Kennerdell

Read Power Lines for a chance to win a \$25 credit on your monthly electric bill by completing and returning the quiz below. You can also have a chance at another \$25 bill credit by submitting a quiz online at www.central.coop.

If you don't have access to the Internet, indicate that on the quiz and we'll also enter you in the online drawing. Just complete and enclose the quiz and personal information below and return it with your monthly payment.

1. True or False: CEC will need to increase rates in 2023 in the range of 14%-16%.

Answer: _____

2. True or False: 99,000 people are treated in the ER each year from accidents that occur while putting decorations up or from faulty holiday decorations.

Answer: _____

3. True or False: Households struggling to pay heating bills this winter may qualify for assistance.

Answer: _____

How are we doing? (no wrong answer)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Acct. #: _____



Central Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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