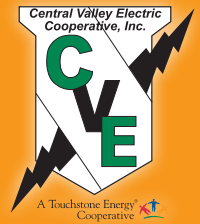




Beyond the Wire

Central Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.



Where do Utility Poles Come From?

The question of “Where do utility poles come from” was recently asked of us by a local radio host. This struck our interest, so we decided to learn more about wood power poles and share that with you.

Wood utility poles, often referred to as “telephone poles,” are a constant presence in our lives. They were originally built in the mid-19th century to suspend telegraph lines. Today they hold up power, telephone and cable lines. Many different types of pine and fir trees are used to make power poles. Central Valley Electric Cooperative purchases poles made from Southern Yellow Pine because that species of pine is remarkably strong with thick, easily treatable sapwood. The poles are pressure treated with a chemical preservative to help maximize pole performance, withstand different climate conditions and slow the decay process.

The poles that CVE purchase are grown and made in the USA. Gary Conklin, CVE Line Superintendent, stated that CVE used to purchase poles from several different “mom and pop shops” throughout



the southern part of the U.S.. However, most of those small shops have sold out to larger corporations, located throughout the southern part of the country, including Canada. Most of the poles



that CVE receives come from Alabama, Louisiana or Tennessee, and are delivered to us by railroad and trucking transport. The poles are inventoried in our equipment yard and then sent out for construction jobs, replacement, or unexpected pole damage.

These high quality poles are necessary not only to withstand the weather in southeastern New Mexico, but they are also essential for the safety of our linemen, especially when climbing.



Central Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Pole Testing in Progress

Wood utility poles are an important part of the electric grid and they are no small investment to the co-op. We expect poles to be strong and sturdy for 30 plus years. That's why it's important for us to routinely test and evaluate the structural integrity of the poles in our service area. If a pole is found to be past its useful life it will be retired and replaced with a new pole.

Currently, CVE is in the process of testing and retiring old poles, and some of the poles being retired are from the late 1960s and 1970s. So you might see some of our vehicles driving around and checking poles in your area.

When poles are retired and switched out, the used pole is returned to the co-op and classified as a "no-value" pole. **These no-value poles are available for FREE to CVE members to come and pick up.** This is just another way that CVE shares an investment with our members.

Because these poles are chemically treated, it is important that people understand how to handle the treated wood, and an employee will review information with you when you pick up poles. Power poles can be used for a variety of different projects from fencing to arts and crafts projects. Give us a call at 575-746-3571 if you would like to come and pick up some no-value power poles.



Energy Efficiency Programs

Don't forget about the different energy efficiency programs and services that Central Valley Electric Cooperative offers its members.

- **Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs):** \$100 per HP (up to 200 HP) rebate for the installation of qualified VFDs.
- **Heating & Cooling Rebates:** Rebates available for the installation of qualified air source and ground source heat pumps.
- **Water Heaters:** We sell water heaters for 60% off the co-ops price.
- **Lighting Rebates:** Lighting rebates are available for commercial and industrial members.
- **FilterChange.com:** Purchase discounted air filters at www.filterchange.com.
- **Free Home Energy Audits:** This program is currently on hold. Look for more information soon.
- **Weatherization Program:** This program is currently on hold.

For more information and specifics on any of these programs go to www.CVECOOP.org or give us a call at 575-746-3571.



Many of you have asked about the 2020 Annual Meeting. We'll mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 20, 2021. Of course this all hinges on the states Public Health Emergency Order** and if we can hold gatherings larger than 100 people. If the health order is lifted before the end of this year we will likely hold a Special Meeting to go over reports covering 2019 and conduct board elections. Again this is all contingent on the current health order

Happy Labor Day

**CVE will be CLOSED
Monday, September 7**

Central Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

OFFICE HOURS:
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday