

# Beyond the Wire

Central Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.



## CVE and Supply Chain Obstacles



The supply chain to the electric utility industry has been put to the test in the past several months and is expected to continue well into 2023. Central Valley Electric Cooperative has been proactive in keeping open communication with our many material and equipment suppliers. The trend we are seeing is longer wait times for material and higher prices for those materials.

Just to give you perspective, CVE has not seen a price increase in power poles for many years. However, the co-op has seen two price increases in poles since the end of 2021, and the wait time went from 2-4 weeks to 10-12 weeks.

Delivery of transformers range from 40 weeks to over one-year. The wait time for conductor (wire) could be up to 40 weeks, and the price of porcelain insulators is expected to triple. On top of all that, is the increase in freight. The cost to ship material has skyrocketed and is expected to continue to rise.

CVE has had to think outside-the-box and order material from vendors like e-Bay and Amazon. We have even bought material from local electrical contract companies and oil companies in an attempt to keep enough material in stock.

The co-op is also focusing on retiring idle lines to obtain as much reusable material as possible. We are trying to keep enough material for members requesting new service buildouts, but also maintain enough material in the event of an emergency.

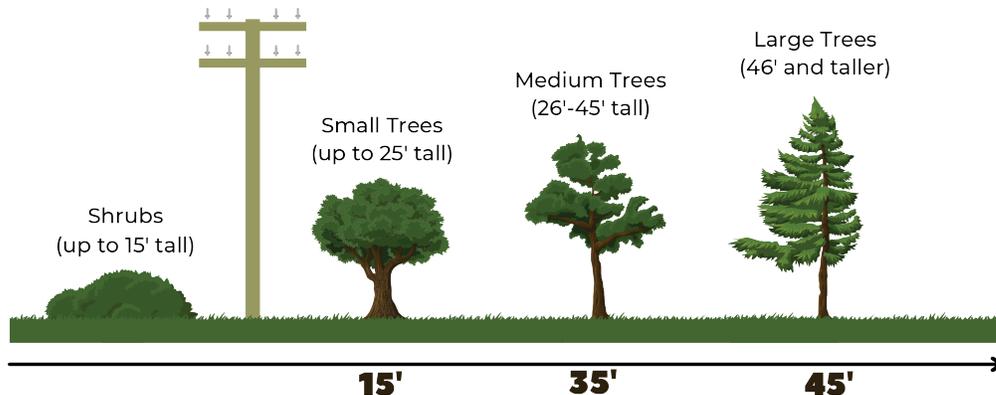
The pandemic, the shortage in raw materials, the shortage in the workforce, and other issues are all working together to create this supply chain issue. But we want you to know we are monitoring all of this very carefully, and doing our best to keep material in stock, and at the same time keep expenses to the co-op members low.

**NOTE:** If you are planning on new construction, such as a new home or upgrading your electric service, please let us know as soon as possible.

## Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

The larger the tree, the farther it should be from a power line. Avoid planting beneath power lines, near poles or close to electrical equipment.

Remember, know what's below by calling 8-1-1 before you dig.



Learn more at:

Safe Electricity.org



## Renewable Energy Rider Added to Rates

In the February *Enchantment*, Central Valley Electric Cooperative gave notice to members that the co-op would file, with the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC), proposed rate changes on March 1, 2022. The proposed rates did not provide a rate increase to any of the cooperative's existing members. It only added a Renewable Energy Distributed Generation Rider to the rates for members who wish to interconnect renewable energy, such as solar, to CVE's system. The proposed changes were effective April 1, 2022. Those members who had a signed Interconnection Agreement prior to April 1, 2022, were given the choice to go to the new renewable energy rate, or stay on the current rate. CVE provided this option because those members made their decision to install solar based on the current rates at that time.

If you are interested in installing renewable energy and interconnecting with CVE's system, please give us a call first so we can go over the steps required by the cooperative and the NMPRC. Also, make sure the renewable energy company you work with knows about the new renewable energy rate.

You can find CVE's approved rates at [www.CVECOOP.org/rates](http://www.CVECOOP.org/rates).



### ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

*Make electrical safety a priority this month, and every month.*

At Central Valley Electric Cooperative, we recognize Electrical Safety Month every May, but we also know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our co-op crews to our members, we feel everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

Safety is more than a catchphrase at CVE. The co-op strives to keep employees safe, as well as our communities. That's why you'll see CVE hosting free safety demonstrations at community events, schools, and local businesses. The co-op also holds monthly safety meetings for employees, going over everything from bucket truck rescue, back safety and safe lifting techniques, and blood borne pathogens to name a few. Our construction crews also hold tailgate discussions before every job to go over what needs to be done and to look for potential safety hazards.

Our priority is providing uninterrupted power 24/7, 365 days a year. But equally important is keeping our employees and our communities safe.

Give us a call at 575-746-3571 for additional electrical safety tips or if you would like CVE to provide a free electrical safety demonstration.



### Central Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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