

CHIPPEWA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2009

FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO ELECTRICITY PRICING UPDATE

On the first of February all rates were increased 3 mills, (\$.003) in an effort to keep up with a wholesale rate surcharge. That increase, as we explained in previous newsletters, was just a stop gap to help keep the May 1st increase from being larger. We have received the preliminary wholesale rate proposal for May 1st, and are expecting another 7.5% increase. We are currently working those numbers into our rate structure in order to set our rates for May 1st and forward. At the time of this article, the rates have not yet been set, but it still appears we will need to raise rates somewhere in the 1 cent per kilowatt hour range. This amounts to \$10.00 for every 1,000 kilowatt hours used. A substantial increase anyway you look at it.

Our power supplier, Dairyland Power has implemented a plan to cut \$5 million out of their 2009 budget in an effort to help keep rates down. Chippewa Valley has also reduced our budgeted work for 2009 to help keep costs in line. We are only planning two needed construction projects this year. We have also reduced the number of unjacketed cable replacements we are doing this year. More of our crew's time will be spent on maintenance of the lines rather

than construction, which should help with our cash flow.

Substantial rate increases could become common place in the future, especially with the talk of a carbon tax or carbon cap and trade programs. Over 90% of the electricity Chippewa Valley Electric purchases is generated by coal. Any carbon tax or cap and trade program will affect our prices drastically. Again as I have mention in past articles, everyone needs to take an active role in contacting our representatives and let them know we will not accept higher electricity prices caused by, (in my opinion), unneeded carbon taxes, cap and trade or carbon capture legislation.

Right now, members of Congress as well as state elected officials are hearing from lots of different interest groups who have ideas about how to address climate change. No one is talking to consumers, however. We need a plan people can live with today while we deal with the climate change problem of tomorrow. Contact your representatives - let them know you will not tolerate higher electricity costs because of carbon legislation.



WE NEED YOUR INPUT

Around the middle of May, our power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative will be mailing out surveys to approximately 10% of our members. This survey is being done to help us plan for your future energy needs.

If you are one of the 10 % receiving the survey, please help us by taking the time to fully complete the questionnaire. It should only take about 10 minutes of your time and it's very important to us.

All of your answers will be held in the strictest confidence. No report created from this survey will identify you or any individual customers.

We would like to thank you for helping Dairyland Power Cooperative and Chippewa Valley Electric to plan for your future energy needs.

**Chippewa Valley Electric
is a member of...**

DIGGERS HOTLINE

Toll-free: 1-800-242-8511

**Milwaukee area:
(414) 259-1181**

**TDD for Hearing Impaired:
1-800-542-2289**

DO YOU DEPEND ON LIFE-SUPPORT EQUIPMENT?

While Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative strives to maintain the best possible service with a minimum of outage time, occasional outages, either planned or uncontrolled, do occur.

We at Chippewa Valley Electric need to know the names and locations of cooperative members who depend on life-support equipment, and it is important that this information be current and accurate. We will make every effort to give priority to members on life-support equipment when restoring service. Please fill out the form below and mail it to us.

YES, I DEPEND ON LIFE-SUPPORT EQUIPMENT

Member's name _____

Phone number _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

Account No. _____

Type of support equipment _____

Do you have an emergency standby generator to operate this equipment?

Yes _____ **No** _____

Please complete and return to: **Chippewa Valley Electric Co-op**
PO Box 575 • Cornell, WI 54732

CHIPPEWA VALLEY SATELLITE

CHIPPEWA VALLEY SATELLITE INTRODUCES WILDBLUE EQUIPMENT LEASE PROGRAM

NEW CUSTOMERS TO BENEFIT FROM LOWEST UPFRONT PRICE EVER OFFERED!

Cornell, WI. Chippewa Valley Satellite announced the introduction of an equipment lease program for high-speed Internet service to new WildBlue customers. Under the lease program, customers will no longer be required to purchase the WildBlue equipment. This program makes high-speed Internet more affordable for residents and small business owners in rural areas.

"The WildBlue Lease Program significantly reduces upfront investment, making this award-winning service available to more people throughout our community. In these tough economic times, we wanted to do our part to make high-speed access more affordable," said Michael Harris, Internet Coordinator.

In the leasing program, new customers pay a one-time cost of \$99.95 for installation and a low monthly equipment lease fee of \$5.95, similar to most cable and satellite television pricing models.

The main benefits for customers include the lowest upfront price ever offered for WildBlue and worry-free equipment replacement.

Customers will also receive a \$10 credit for 12 months on the Value pak if the WildBlue system is installed by April 30th 2009.

To find out more about the new WildBlue Lease Program and WildBlue's fast, reliable Internet service, call 715-239-3862 or visit www.chipvalley.com.



Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 575
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(715) 239-6800 or 1-800-300-6800

www.cvecoop.com

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