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Central Virginia Electric Cooperative Announces Initiatives *Programs to Increase Service Reliability and Reduce Energy Costs*

(Lovingson, VA) - Keeping the lights on and delivering energy at the lowest available cost are two primary expectations of the member-owners of Central Virginia Electric Cooperative, and it provides great value to their quality of life. CVEC is implementing two new programs to bolster its efforts for great reliability and keeping wholesale energy costs as low as possible.

The Co-op is adding a computerized vegetation management system to enhance an already aggressive right-of-way management program (the clearing of trees below the power lines and along the edges of the 40-foot right-of-way). Brandon Maddox, a CVEC Staking Engineer has accepted the newly created position of GIS Engineering Technician where he will be charged with tracking right-of-way maintenance activity and trouble spots within a mapping data base to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of our overall vegetation management efforts. CVEC fully expects this position to help prevent outages and reduce the duration and cost of outages if and when they do occur.

CVEC has also created a new position to help CVEC identify areas where electric line loss and electric theft from current diversion may occur on the Co-ops distribution system. The Loss Prevention Coordinator will compare the amount of energy delivered to each CVEC substation with the total usage of all meters in that area, followed by a systematic process to identify the reasons for and locations of the line loss of energy intended for delivery to members. If CVEC is able to eliminate 2% of the line loss and current diversion from the total 700 million kilowatt-hours each year it would save members an estimated \$1.3 million annually.

Gary Wood, President and CEO of Central Virginia Electric Cooperative commented, "The new programs have been developed based on best practices within the industry and will create value for our members through improved reliability and lower costs."

Look for a report in the future detailing the results of these new efforts and keep an eye on the newspapers for available positions at CVEC, as a result of the selection of an internal candidate, retirement, realignment, or an employee accepting another position. While CVEC does not often create new positions, the Cooperative is regarded as a great place to work and it seeks the most qualified candidates whenever openings do occur.

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