

# Plugged In



## Office Locations & Hours

Monday-Friday  
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From the President by Jerry Lauer

## We are in this together

Consolidated Electric's (CEC) primary goal is to provide safe, reliable and prompt service at a reasonable cost. In a perfect world, the cost to reach this goal would never increase and we would never have to raise electric rates to pay for electric service. But the simple fact is that whether we like it or not, a rate increase is unavoidable.

I expect to hear from some of our members, who will ask the question "why now when many members are struggling because of the economy?"

### Timing

CEC completes a long-range financial forecast or cost-of-service study that we update and review annually. The forecast looks at our rate revenue and associated costs. We must pay for operating costs with revenues from our electric rates. In order to avoid an operating loss, CEC cannot delay the rate increase any longer and we project a price increase in April.

### Cost controls

Looking for ways to save our members money is an ongoing process at Consolidated, not just something we do when the economy is bad. Being a nonprofit, member-owned electric cooperative, our focus is on what is best for our members. We also know that our members would not want us to make cuts that would adversely affect the safety, reliability or member services that you come to expect. We continue to use new technologies to automate processes and find new ways to increase operating efficiencies. Some actions that we have taken include reducing outside labor costs by finding competencies within our internal workforce and utilizing them, as well as extending the life of equipment such as fleet vehicles and computers. These actions were made to save money without negatively impacting operations.

In addition, we continue to work with Buckeye Power, to control their costs, which make up the majority of your overall electric costs. Please remember that we are in this together and that we are working hard on your behalf, especially during these challenging economic times.

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