

TVA board approves another rate adjustment

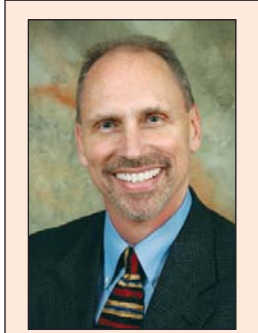
Citing coal, natural gas and purchased power costs that are significantly higher than budgeted for 2006, the TVA board of directors on Feb. 13 approved an increase of 9.95 percent in wholesale electric rates. This increase in wholesale rates is on top of a 7.5-percent increase in October 2005 and a 7.4-percent increase for residential customers in October 2003.

The TVA rate increase will result in an SVEC rate increase of about 7.75 percent. All of this SVEC rate increase will flow directly back to TVA — nothing will be kept at the local level for local operations.

The rate adjustment will be effective for all bills sent to customers of SVEC after April 1 and, according to TVA, is necessary to offset more than \$500 million in increased fuel and purchased power costs TVA has incurred since last July, when the board approved the last rate increase.

Every time we fill up our gas tanks, we realize what has happened to gas and oil prices since late summer. Although TVA does not use much gas and oil in

its generation, the agency purchases power from other utilities that do use oil and natural gas for generation.



Bob Matheny
President/CEO
Sequachee Valley
Electric Cooperative

While it is true that a rate increase appears necessary to keep TVA operating in the black, it is very frustrating to work hard to keep your local expenses low only to have TVA come in and raise wholesale rates. But the reality is SVEC only has control of about 20 percent of its overall rates — almost 80 cents of each dollar SVEC receives goes directly to TVA — and SVEC has no control over

TVA and its rates.

However, SVEC and other power distributors across the Tennessee Valley are united in the belief that TVA must remain vigilant in its efforts to implement cost-containment measures and maximize resources for the benefit of all consumers and the economic welfare of the region.

We will keep a watchful eye on TVA to make sure that it is as conscientious in the use of your energy dollar as your locally owned and controlled cooperative.

How your energy dollar is divided



80%
to TVA



20%
SVEC



Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative

Serving all or portions of Bledsoe, Grundy, Marion, Sequatchie, Coffee, Hamilton, Rhea and Van Buren counties.

Service Centers:

512 South Cedar Ave.
P.O. Box 31,
South Pittsburg, TN 37380
Telephone: (423) 837-8605
Toll Free: 1-800-923-2203

1055A Rankin Ave. North
P.O. Box 518,
Dunlap, TN 37327
Telephone: (423) 949-2198

250 North Main St.
P.O. Box 441,
Pikeville, TN 37367
Telephone: (423) 447-2131

14002 Highway 41
P.O. Box 100,
Tracy City, TN 37387
Telephone: (931) 592-2511

14087 Highway 28
Whitwell, TN 37397
Telephone: (423) 658-7832

After-hours:
1-888-421-7832



We want to be ready when you are so... please include us in your construction and renovation plans

Spring is right around the corner, and many people have building and remodeling on their minds. These are monumental tasks, requiring meticulous scheduling and, far too often, rescheduling. We don't want to add to your "building headache." This is why we ask you to include us, Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative, in your planning process. We want to provide you with electric service when you need it.



As you are planning your new home please include SVEC. By checking in with us first, you may save a lot of time, money and frustration.

Here is what SVEC needs

- Notify SVEC 30 days prior to the date you need electric service so that we can obtain underground clearance and complete engineering and construction work.
- We must be provided the following billing information: Name, Social Security number, two forms of ID (driver's license and one other), telephone number, mailing address and contact phone number.
- We must be provided the following location information: Directions to the site and the 911 address, if available.
- The site must be marked to show where the new construction will stand.

Once SVEC has the above information, a field engineer will visit the site within five working days. Should more information be needed, the field engineer will contact you.

State electrical requirements

- According to where you live, state law may require that a permit be obtained from either the health department or local city hall. You must present this sewer permit, if required, when purchasing your building permit or electrical permit.

- Electrical permits can be purchased at SVEC using cash, check, money order or credit card. The check or money order should be made payable to Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative. A copy of the electrical permit should be placed in the meter base for the state electrical inspector.
- Please give SVEC's Engineering Department 72 hours notice prior to doing any excavations so we can obtain information on all underground utilities.
- There must be a series of inspections by a state electrical inspector ("rough-in"—no insulation or wall covering installed; "final"—all panel covers, face covers, etc., installed; and HVAC—heating and cooling system has been installed). The inspector must have access to the interior of your home.

When your wiring is complete

- Call SVEC to schedule an inspection by a state electrical inspector.
- Once inspection is passed and payments and other requirements have been taken care of, SVEC will schedule your meter to be set, usually within three days.
- If wiring does not pass inspection, you are required by law to purchase another permit and have the wiring reinspected.

We want our involvement to be a pleasant part of your building or remodeling experience. A timeline with detailed instructions and a list of the most common reasons that homes fail electrical inspections are also available at each of our offices. So, please call us if you have any questions or need additional information.

Level out your high seasonal electric bills

This year's high energy costs have thrown many budgets for a loop.

Let SVEC help you get your finances back on track with these two free services:

Our easy **Budget Billing Plan** allows you to pay the same amount each month (an average of your previous year's use).

To find out how to save money by using less energy, ask to have our **free energy right® Home e-Valuation survey** mailed to you, or visit our Web site at www.svalleyec.com and complete the survey online.

Complete this form and return it with your bill to receive more information on:

Budget Billing Plan **Home e-Valuation Survey**

Or mail to SVEC, P.O. Box 31, South Pittsburg, TN 37380 or e-mail us at cblack@svalleyec.com for more information.

SVEC Account Name(s): _____ SVEC Account #: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Town: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____

E-mail address: _____





Energy-efficient home building benefits all

Building a new home may be one of the most expensive things you do in your lifetime, but it's important not to cut corners where energy efficiency is concerned. With these tips you can build a home that's comfortable for you and your energy budget while helping ease the strain on our country's natural resources.



If you are building a new home make sure that it is energy efficient from the inside out by building it "energy right."

Seal against air leaks

Keep conditioned air inside your home where it belongs. Sealing against air leaks is one of the most important things your builder can do to ensure overall comfort and lower energy bills in your new home.

Most air leakage problems are found in the areas listed below. Make sure your builder has identified these potential trouble spots in your home building plan and that steps will be taken to properly seal:

- floors
- utility and other vented areas
- staircases on outside or garage walls
- holes for wiring and plumbing
- walls where they meet floors and rooflines
- chimneys/fireplaces
- windows
- attics and attic doors
- knee-walls and dormers
- duct systems
- bathtubs or showers on outside walls

Properly size heating and cooling equipment



A properly sized, energy-efficient heat pump is the most economical way to heat and cool your home.

The size of your home's heating and cooling system is directly related to its operating efficiency and, ultimately, your overall comfort. A lot goes into correct sizing, so make sure your contractor takes the following into account when sizing your system:

- heat loss/heat gain analysis

- proper air leakage rate for your home (based on home size and projected or actual efficiency performance)
- solar orientation of your home
- standard internal heat generation allowances (appliances and people) and nonstandard allowances for items like home offices, special lighting or indoor hot tubs
- typical average extreme winter and summer outdoor temperatures and the normal indoor thermostat settings for these seasons

Properly design and seal the duct system

All homes are not the same. The way your duct system is designed to carry heated and cooled air through your home directly impacts your comfort. Properly designed duct systems deliver the right amount of air to each room of your home. Multiple return vents are recommended on each level of your home and in rooms where there are several supply vents.

Sealing of the duct system is so important it deserves special attention. Leaks in the duct system, even tiny ones, waste energy much like a leaky faucet wastes water. The more air lost through duct leakage, the more you're paying to heat and cool your home. Duct system leakage can account for 30 percent or more of wasted energy. Furthermore, since air quality is another important consideration, proper duct-sealing also keeps dust, mold and mildew in crawl spaces and attics from passing into your home and into your lungs. **Your contractor should permanently seal your entire duct system with mastic or UL 181 tape.**

Insulate

Insulation creates a barrier between your home and the outdoor elements. It is very important to insulate walls, attics, crawl spaces and storage areas. The basic provisions are:

- Walls (cavity plus sheathing): R-13- R-15
- Ceilings: R-30
- Floors: R-19

Choose energy-efficient windows

Windows are beautiful additions to your home, but they can waste energy by letting in drafts, drawing out heat in winter and baking your home in summer. Choose windows



that have good insulation values, such as double and triple panes. Some have an insulating gas (like argon) between the panes, which insulates better than air. There are also windows with special clear coatings, called “low-e” windows, that reflect heat. The frames and spacers between panes should also be considered. Wood, vinyl and fiberglass are better insulators than standard aluminum frames. New warm-edge spacers insulate better than normal wood, vinyl or fiberglass, which can conduct condensation around the edges of windows.

Choose energy-efficient lighting

Lighting can make a major impact on energy-efficiency.



Compact fluorescent bulbs use one-fourth the electricity of incandescent bulbs. Consider replacing high-usage bulbs to lower lighting costs.

Whether indoor or outdoor, choose high-efficiency lighting for as many applications as possible.

Use compact fluorescent bulbs in fixtures. If you’re planning to install recessed lighting, choose only those that are airtight and IC-rated. It’s also a good idea to make sure your HVAC contractor is aware of your lighting plans as it can increase the requirements of your air-conditioning

system. Finally, consider using automatic lighting controls in your home for optimum energy-efficiency.

Consider natural attic ventilation

In attics, natural ventilation is best. To keep attic heat out of your living spaces, follow these four steps:

- (1) Install soffit and ridge vents and/or gable vents in the attic.
- (2) Repair any leaky ductwork.
- (3) Seal gaps in areas where attic spaces meet living spaces, making sure they are airtight.
- (4) Insulate the ceiling to a minimum of R-30.

Seal crawl spaces

A typical crawl space releases 12 gallons of moisture per day. If your new home will have a crawl space, here are four steps to prevent moisture problems:

- (1) Install gutters and slope the grade around the foundation to direct rain away from the house.
- (2) Cover the crawl space floor with a vapor barrier, overlap seams by one to two feet and seal them. Outside edges should also extend at least six inches above the outside grade and be sealed to the block.
- (3) Close vents and seal foundation vents to eliminate warm, moist outdoor air from entering the crawl space.
- (4) Seal any ductwork in the crawl space.

It’s important to note that you should do all four steps to properly seal your crawl space. If you skip a step like putting down a vapor barrier, then you should open your crawl space vents in spring and close them in winter.

Choose high-efficiency water-heating

- Check Energy Guide labels to compare operating efficiency on various models.
- Choose the right size for the number of people in your home.
- Insulate the water heater if it will be located in an unheated space. Be careful to check insulating recommendations for gas water heaters.
- Provide a thermal break (insulating barrier) between the water heater and any uninsulated floor.
- Set temperature only as high as needed and not over 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Consider an instantaneous water heater for low demand and remote locations.
- Consider a timer if hot water will not be needed for long periods each day.

Consider effective landscaping

Landscaping is another important consideration when thinking about energy efficiency. Deciduous trees (leafy in summer, bare in winter) provide wonderful shade for your home in summer but allow the sun to help warm your home in winter. Plant these trees on the sides of your home that receive the most sun. Evergreens can also provide an effective break from chilling winds in winter.



Ask us about energy right® rebates

SVEC and TVA help offset the initial cost of using high-efficiency features in your new home by offering cash incentives to members who build new homes that qualify as *energy right*®. Call your local SVEC office or visit our Web site at www.svalleyec.com for details.

Water-heating accounts for 20 percent of your electric energy use. A high-efficiency model set at 120 degrees will reduce your energy costs.



Sixth- and seventh-graders — 4-H Electric Camp hands-on fun



Participants of 4-H Electric Camp learn the basics of electricity and electric safety through “hands-on” activities such as the continuity tester learning center.

The 15th annual 4-H Electric Camp will be held this summer, June 27-30. The camp, sponsored by the University of Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service, electric cooperatives and municipal electric utilities across the state, will again be held at the University of Tennessee campus in Knoxville.

Participants will learn basic principles of electricity and electric safety, explore new technology and have the opportunity for “learning by doing” through hands-on projects such as making an electric meter base lamp.

While there, campers also have time to go swimming, are treated to an afternoon at Dollywood and enjoy a number of exciting programs related to electricity.

4-H members in the sixth and seventh grades who are interested in participating in Electric Camp and have not attended the camp in the past should contact their local Extension office in early April to register. SVEC offers one scholarship per county.

Bledsoe County — 447-2451

Grundy County — 592-3971

Marion County — 942-2656

Sequatchie County — 949-2611

Attention, teachers! SVEC can come to your class

If your class is studying basic electricity, energy conservation, careers, the cooperative type of business or electric safety, Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative is the community resource to call upon.

- Basic electricity
- Electric safety
- Louie the Lightning Bug
- In Concert With The Environment
- Career programs

To schedule one of these programs, call Cathy Black at (423) 837-5044 or (800) 923-2203, Ext. 5044.



Students learn about electric circuits

Do we owe you money?

The following is a list of inactive Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative member-owners who are entitled to have their initial deposits returned to them.

All deposits not returned must, by law, be turned over to the state of Tennessee under the Unclaimed Property Act.

Banks, Jeanette S.
Billings, Rebecca
Blevins, Joe B.
Bowlen, Beulah C.
Crews, Sandra Marion
Curtis, Amy
Curtis, Timothy
Davis, Gary Edward
Fox, Jerry
Gravitt, Julie Lynn
Gray, Rhonda

Greene, Michael Edward
Hale, David LeBron
Harding, Joseph
Hart, Julia M.
Hubbard, Jimmy Carter
Kalmar, Cheryl Melissa
Lawson, Beatrice
Layne, Shirley
Ledford, Bryan W.
Lewis, Delores Renee
Lockhart, Kristy L.

The deposits of deceased persons belong to their rightful heirs.

If you or someone you know is on this list, please contact Lisa Holtcamp with a current address or phone number at 837-5046 or (800) 923-2203, Ext. 5046, by April 15.

Pelham Service Center
Phipps, Joseph M.
Phipps, Joseph M.
Poe, Andrea E.
Powell, Charlotte
Ridley, Robert J.
Robertson, Joseph Barnard
Robinson, Louise
Rodriguez, Macien Galaviz
Rush, Lucille Watson
Sanders, Joe Edward

Scott, Ana
Sharp, Donna
Shook, Brian Houston
Slaughter, Nicholas
Smith, John Robert
Smith, Pamela
Sorg, Raymond E.
Taylor, Audrey Francis
Wooten, Ethel Marie
Zagone, Shellie Marie