



# inside your co-op

For members of Choctaw Electric Cooperative | DECEMBER 2025

## Powering the Future

**WFEC, Choctaw Electric Cooperative's wholesale power supplier, faces challenges of increasing SPP reserve capacity requirements**

Following Polar Storm Uri in February 2021, the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), a 14-state Regional Transmission Organization and Regional Electricity Market concluded reliability—both generation and transmission—needed to improve.

For Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC), as one of SPP's 120-plus members this meant a need for more generation of all types—coal, natural gas, wind, nuclear, and solar—plus increased transmission capability, for this region.

To accomplish that goal, SPP and its members did two things: 1) increased the winter season reserve margin from 16% to 36% and strengthened the way generation capacity is calculated; 2) SPP started authorizing construction of more transmission or improvements to existing transmission to make sure that new generation could reach loads.

How did these two decisions impact WFEC? Based on the load of WFEC's distribution members, reserves were required to increase from 352 megawatts (MW) to 792 MW, an increase of 440 MW of generation to make the region more reliable during extreme

weather conditions. WFEC members' load is also growing, and additional generation (160 MW) is necessary to serve normal load growth over the next five to six years.

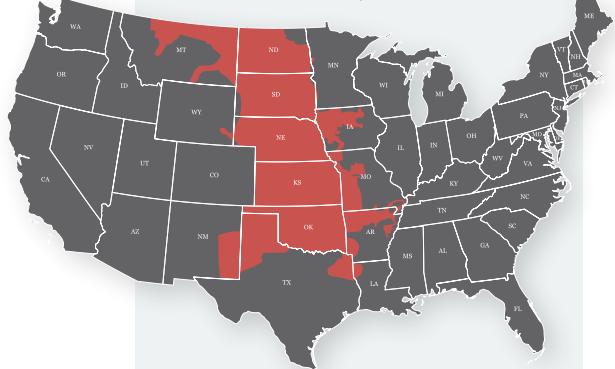
At the same time, WFEC was issued Notices to Construct (NTCs) for various transmission projects with a total cost of over \$250 million. These additional expenses and investments in reliability and capacity may increase rates but are necessary to maintain reliability and deliverability to consumers.

WFEC is a not-for-profit, wholesale power supplier for 21 distribution cooperatives—including Choctaw Electric Cooperative—and Altus Air Force Base, located across Oklahoma and into parts of New Mexico.

“As an electric provider, we are doing everything possible to minimize the impacts of those future challenges that will help ensure WFEC and its cooperatives can continue to provide reliable service at a competitive price,” WFEC CEO Gary Roulet said.

For additional information, please visit the WFEC website: [www.wfec.com](http://www.wfec.com).

SPP's 2022 service region.  
Map courtesy of Oaec.



### What is a Regional Transmission Organization?

Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs) are not-for-profit entities that coordinate the flow of electricity across the grid to ensure reliable, affordable power delivery.

The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) is one of seven RTOs in the U.S., serving utilities across a 14-state region that includes Oklahoma.

Think of the electric grid as a network of highways. The SPP acts like a traffic officer that maintains order to ensure efficient travel. The SPP doesn't own power lines or power plants; instead, it manages the grid in real time, balancing generation and demand. Since electricity must be generated as it is used, this coordination is essential to maintaining reliable and affordable service.

Read more about SPP and its interconnection to Oklahoma's electric co-ops: [www.okl.coop/story/connecting-the-power-dots](http://www.okl.coop/story/connecting-the-power-dots).

## Choctaw Electric Cooperative

Serving members in Choctaw, Pushmataha, Atoka, McCurtain, Bryan and LeFlore counties.

### CONNECT WITH US

Monday-Friday | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### 24 Hour Outage Line

(800) 780-6486

### Hugo Office

PO Box 758  
1033 N. 4250 Rd.  
Hugo, OK 74743

Toll free: (800) 780-6486  
Local: (580) 326-6486  
Fax: (580) 326-2492

### Idabel Office

2114 SE Washington  
Idabel, OK 74745

Toll free: (800) 780-6486

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Download the free SmartHub  
app in your device's app store

# Managing Rising Costs While Keeping Power Affordable

In recent years, the cost of materials, equipment and construction has risen sharply—something every electric provider across the nation has felt. Even so, Choctaw Electric Cooperative remains committed to keeping rates as low as possible for our members.

We've worked hard to absorb these rising costs without compromising the quality or reliability of service our members depend on. Our crews continue to maintain lines and equipment with the same dedication and aggressive maintenance schedule that keeps our system strong, even during extreme weather.

At the same time, our power supplier, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, is adding new generation and transmission to strengthen system reliability across the region. (Read about those

grid improvements on Page 1). While those investments are necessary, they also add strain to overall costs. On the retail side, CEC continues to manage expenses carefully, working every day to keep rates affordable and stable for the members we serve.



CEO Kooney Duncan

Thanks to careful planning and the hard work of our employees, our members continue to experience some of the lowest electric costs in the state.

While we've managed to hold rates steady for several years, we recognize that continued cost pressures may eventually require us to review our options. For now, CEC is not planning any rate increases, and we will continue doing everything possible to manage costs responsibly.

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
& HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**

**TO: OUR MEMBERS**

**FROM: CHOCTAW ELECTRIC CO-OP**





Young hunters are ready for the 27th annual Hugo Lake Youth Deer Hunt, held Oct. 10-12.

## CEC Supports Youth Outdoor Education

The 27th annual Hugo Lake Youth Deer Hunt brought young hunters and their families together Oct. 10-12, for a weekend of learning. Hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the special controlled hunt gave youth—drawn by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation—a chance to experience the outdoors firsthand.

This year's first hunt welcomed dozens of young participants, each accompanied by a parent or guardian, for a full camping and hunting experience on the shores of Hugo Lake. Volunteers and sponsors made the event possible, providing meals, equipment and support. Choctaw Electric Cooperative

was proud to contribute to the weekend's meals.

The weekend was a success, with participants harvesting nine deer—seven does and two bucks, including an impressive eight-point. Beyond that, the event fostered camaraderie, respect for wildlife and a lasting appreciation for conservation. A second youth hunt will take place Dec. 12-14. In total, 55 youth will participate in this year's hunts.

At CEC, our mission is about more than keeping the lights on—it's about supporting programs that strengthen our communities and invest in future generations.

**Use SmartHub for easy outage reporting**

With CEC's free SmartHub app, you can report outages with just a few clicks! Plus, get an estimated restoration time, information on causes and a notification when your power is back on. If you have questions, please call customer service at 800-780-6486.

## Office Closures

In celebration of the Christmas and New Year holidays, Choctaw Electric Cooperative's offices will be closed Dec. 24-25, 2025 and Jan. 1, 2026.

## Go Paperless!

Sign up for paperless billing via the SmartHub app or call Choctaw Electric Cooperative at 800-780-6486. One lucky member will win two CEC T-shirts and two CEC caps.

## Help Us Preserve Our Legacy

CEC is celebrating 85 years of service! We're marking this milestone with a special project to preserve the co-op's rich history. The project will gather, organize and digitize a collection of photos and memorabilia that tell the story of CEC and the communities we serve. To contribute stories, photos, recipes or other memorabilia, please contact Jia Johnson at 800-780-6486, ext. 241.

## December Efficiency Tip

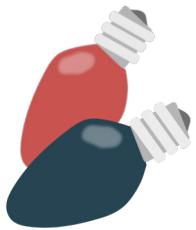
To maximize your fireplace's efficiency, always keep the damper closed when the fireplace is not in use. An open damper is like an open window, allowing warm indoor air to escape and cold air to enter. Consider installing a fireplace insert, which improves heat output by circulating warm air into the room rather than letting it escape up the chimney. Also, burn only seasoned hardwood to ensure a hotter, cleaner burn. Regularly clean and inspect your chimney to maintain safe and efficient operation. Source: energy.gov

## Lucky Acct #38859742

If this is your account number, please contact CEC at 800-780-6486, ext. 241, by the 5th of the month to claim your \$25 bill credit. Unclaimed bill credits roll over each month by \$25 for a maximum credit of \$100.

Keep Your Holidays

# MERRY & BRIGHT



Don't add stress to your holiday season. Knowing how to properly use and hang lights could prevent injury or fire.



Make sure your home's electrical system can handle the load.



Unplug lights or decorations before changing a bulb or other parts.



Do not use cords or plugs that are damaged, frayed or cracked.



Only use lights certified by a reputable testing lab.



In addition, consider LED lights when replacing old light strands. LEDs use 80 to 90% less energy than incandescent bulbs.

 **Safe Electricity.org**



Above: Participants round the bases during the Buddy Ball game on Oct. 18. Below: A Buddy Ball player takes a swing.

## Buddy Ball 2025 Knocks It Out of the Park

The second annual Buddy Ball event on Oct. 18 at the Choctaw Nation Ball Fields in Grant was a home run for community spirit.

Hosted by Choctaw Electric Cooperative, in partnership with other local organizations, the event brought together individuals with special needs, their buddies and volunteers for a joyful day of baseball.

This year's game welcomed nearly 60 participants, 35 buddies and 20 volunteers. Each player was paired with a buddy who offered encouragement and support, creating a fun, non-competitive environment where everyone had a chance to shine.

"We had a great turnout," CEC Director of Communications Jia Johnson says. "It was wonderful to see so many people come together to make sure every participant felt included."

Events like Buddy Ball reflect CEC's concern for community and its ongoing commitment to supporting local programs that bring people together.



## Apply Now for Youth Tour 2026!

Attention high school juniors! Do you want to win a trip to Washington, D.C., to explore historic sites, meet state leaders and connect with other students—all expenses paid? This once-in-a-lifetime adventure could be yours, thanks to Youth Tour!

To apply, submit an essay on the following topic: A Nation Lit Up: Exploring the Cultural Impact of Electricity on American Life and its Celebration of 250 Years. Support your

ideas with three credible references—avoid Wikipedia! Three winners will represent CEC on Youth Tour, June 13-19, 2026.

**Apply by Dec. 12, 2025!** Applications are available at [choctawelectric.net/youth-tour](http://choctawelectric.net/youth-tour), at CEC offices and at local high schools. All juniors in CEC's service territory are invited to apply, including private and home-schooled students. Contact Jia Johnson at 800-780-6486 with questions.

