



Copper Valley Electric employs over 40 Alaskans, all of whom live and work in the communities we serve. We are proud of our employees and the work each one does to help fulfill CVEA's mission to provide exceptional customer service through safe, reliable, cost-effective electric service as well as CVEA's vision to reduce or completely eliminate our dependence on fossil fuel and stabilize the Cooperative's cost of generation with regional, sustainable resources. Each year, CVEA recognizes employees with extended years of loyal and dedicated service to the Cooperative. We invite you to join us in congratulating them on their accomplishment.



Ryan Cook
Copper Basin Lineman
15 Years of Service

Ryan has worked for CVEA as a Lineman and Line Foreman in the Copper Basin District for 15 years. John Schenck, CVEA Operations Manager said, "In his 15 years with CVEA, Ryan's knowledge to keep the lights on day and night has been valuable. He regularly demonstrates that he is one of the most

Working Hard For You CVEA Service Awards

knowledgeable linemen on our team. His dedication to the Copper Basin community is steady. CVEA thanks him for his many years of service."



Todd Stahley
Valdez Line Foreman
15 Years of Service

Todd is the Line Foreman in the Valdez District. In 2019, he celebrates 15 years of service with CVEA. Prior to CVEA, Todd worked for a utility in Indiana.

He lives in Valdez with his wife Laura. They have three children; Amanda, Sara, and Alan, and grandchildren Daniel and Emma. In his spare time he likes hunting, fishing, and camping.

In the last five years, Todd says the big changes have been new management, bigger jobs, and more work. Todd's favorite thing about working for CVEA is all of the different jobs he gets to do, and one thing he wishes people knew is how hard CVEA employees work to keep the lights on. When asked if he'd like to provide a quote, Todd said, "six more years."

According to Schenck, "Todd exemplifies hard work and dedication on a daily basis. I've relied upon his knowledge and

experience in planning and completing the many ambitious projects CVEA has undertaken the past several years. He is a valuable asset to the operations team and I appreciate all that he does."



Alexander Gearhart
Copper Basin Plant Operator
10 Years of Service

Alex is celebrating 10 years as a Plant Operator in the Glennallen Diesel Plant. Alex has lived in the Copper Basin for over 30 years and began his career at CVEA after going to school to study process technology.

Alex and his wife Samantha live with their kids Brett and Payton, dog Kizer, and cat Okie. He loves hunting, fishing, jet boating, motorsports, snowmachining, wood and metalworking, being outdoors, and traveling and exploring new places.

We asked Alex what has changed in the last five years and he said, "installation of new engines, different operations protocols to reduce outage times and make things more efficient, and new equipment allowing us to monitor and control things remotely and more effectively."

Alex's favorite thing about working for CVEA is that it is a great job that allows him to make a good living and be home every night to see his family, and if he could tell everyone one thing about the Co-op, it would be, "everyone at CVEA works extremely hard to make sure that the members get reliable power. It may not seem like it all the time, but everything we do throughout the entire company is to make sure CVEA and its members have the most reliable power and inexpensive power we have the ability to give them. It may not always seem like we make the right decisions, but we do everything with good intentions for our members."

According to Wayne McKinsey, CVEA Production Manager, "Alex is an operator we have come to rely on. He takes pride in the work that he performs and is one of the friendliest people you'll ever meet. I look forward to working with Alex for many more years."



Mike Haley
Valdez Plant Operator
10 Years of Service

Mike has worked for CVEA as a Plant Operator in Valdez for 10 years. Since his last milestone, he's been a part of the Valdez Diesel Plant engine rebuild, implementation of more automation and computerized aspects of the plants and metering, and getting the Allison Creek hydro project up and running. When asked one thing he wished people knew about CVEA, he said, "I wish people knew that CVEA employees pay the same rates as everyone else in town."

Mike's favorite thing about working at CVEA is the people. When asked about

Mike, Wayne responded, "Mike has a great attitude and everyone enjoys working with him. He is very dedicated and is always willing to help out."



Anthony Martin
Valdez Plant Operator
10 Years of Service

Anthony celebrates 10 years with CVEA. He began as a groundskeeper and after 3 1/2 years, worked his way to becoming a Plant Operator Trainee, and then an Operator in the Valdez District. He enjoys fast cars, hiking, fishing, snow sports, and working on cars and motorcycles.

According to Wayne, "Anthony is a great mechanic and can be counted on to get any job in the plants done correctly. He's the mini hulk – he makes lifting heavy parts and tools look easy."



Mike Rego
Chief Plant Operator Diesel Plants
10 Years of Service

Mike has worked for CVEA for 10 years and is currently the Chief Diesel Plant Operator serving both districts. Mike has lived in the Copper Basin for over 32 years. He lives with his wife Victoria, kids

Nuala and Ike, dogs Gypsy and Sonja, and their chickens and turkeys. In his spare time Mike enjoys spending time with his family outdoors.

When asked about changes in the last five years, Mike said, "it would be easier to conclude what has not changed, than what has. As Chief of the diesel plants, not a day goes by that is repetitive or when not faced by a problem that has arisen. There is also not a single day when I haven't learned something. Our list of accomplishments over the last five years are vast.

In the diesel plants I have been a key employee on major projects including the Valdez Diesel Plant generator set upgrades, major performance upgrades to older Enterprise engines, overhauls, entire fuel offload and deliver systems, and most recently as successful rebuild of an engine from the ground up; of that, each major component weighs 10 tons. In addition there have been supervisory protection, control, and procedure upgrades."

When asked to provide an interesting story, Mike told of a fast, agile 'super' squirrel with the ability to walk through walls, getting the upper hand on the operators in the Glennallen Diesel Plant last year, and he said that his favorite thing about working for CVEA is the creativity the management structure allows for the operations group. It allows employees to come up with new and exciting ways to get the job done safer and more efficiently while providing the experience to troubleshoot, grow, learn, and excel on a daily basis.

Mike wishes everyone knew that, "regardless of the challenges we face daily, and a range of tasks that is so vast, it is hard to quantify, there's nothing we can't accomplish because we have a great, diverse and talented team at CVEA."

When asked, Wayne said, "Mike has terrific juggling skills. He oversees both the Glennallen and Valdez Diesel Plants."

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Dave Coon
Communication and Controls
Engineer
5 Years of Service

Dave celebrates five years as CVEA's Communication and Controls Engineer. He came to the Co-op from HAARP, where he was an electrical engineer for nine years.

Dave lives in Gakona with his wife, Tracy, dogs Joe and Dani, and horses Flash and Toyota. In his spare time he enjoys fishing, woodworking, ATVs, snowmachines, and taking the RV out and about in Alaska. He loves tinkering with computers and electronics, maintaining their hobby farm and caring for his horses.

When asked his favorite thing about working for CVEA, he said, "I take great pride and enjoyment that my work at CVEA directly benefits our members by increasing overall system reliability and decreasing downtime when there are outages. I love the challenges of learning and programming new equipment." Further, he said, "we have an absolutely amazing bunch of people at CVEA. The challenges the Co-op has overcome to bring this system into the 21st Century with such a small crew has been a sight to see and a pleasure to be a part of."

Darin Sauls, CVEA Manager of Engineering, had much to say about Dave. "It is not enough to simply say

Dave works hard; he not only gets the job done, but gets it done right. These are not always the same thing. With many things often unknown, Dave must identify the problem, research the solution, then apply and test that solution. It is a sometimes painful and long process that for even the simplest tasks can take weeks to resolve. Most people do not have the diligence to research the problem's solution, the persistence to apply the solution, and the patience to start all over again when it does not test perfectly. Dave has demonstrated that in addition to his top notch technical abilities, he possesses the desire to push through every technical issue day after day, time after time and one-by-one."



Mark Kirkpatrick
Copper Basin Lineman
5 Years of Service

Mark has been a Lineman for CVEA for five years. He spent his first 1.5 years in Valdez, and the last 3.5 years in the Copper Basin District, where he was recently promoted to Line Foreman. Mark lives in Glennallen with his wife Crystal, children Bryson, Richard, and Madison, and their dog Pugsley. In his spare time he enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with family and friends.

When asked his favorite thing about working for CVEA, he said, "I enjoy the

community and working outdoors."

Mark's supervisor, John Schenck, had this to say, "Mark always keeps a positive attitude and calm demeanor that inspires the entire operations team. He readily accepts increased responsibility and never shys away from new technologies or challenges. I look forward to working with Mark for many years to come."



Lindsay Malone
Office Manager
5 Years of Service

Lindsay was recently promoted to the Office Manager of CVEA, but has also served as CVEA Accountant and the Office Admin in the Copper Basin District during her five years with the Cooperative. Prior to joining CVEA, she was a bank teller.

Lindsay lives with her significant other, Jason, children Rogan, Tovey, Savvi, and Davie, dogs Bella, Miley, and Shelby, and cats Rocco and Remi. When not working or tending to her full house, she enjoys hiking, cooking, reading, and anything with her kids.

When asked her favorite things about working for CVEA, she said, "I appreciate the opportunities for growth and education. I also love working with a great team of people." According to CFO Jaime Matthews, "Lindsay started at

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Employee Service

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CVEA as the Office Admin in 2014. A year later she was promoted to Accountant and has been in that position for four years. She was recently promoted to Office Manager and is responsible for the oversight of the accounting department. Lindsay always has a positive attitude and works extremely hard. CVEA is lucky to have her as part of our team."



Wayne McKinsey
Production Manager
5 Years of Service

Wayne is the CVEA Production Manager, a position he's held all five of his years with the Cooperative. Prior to CVEA he was a plant superintendent for Austin Energy. Although his Dad was a career soldier and he a self proclaimed military 'brat', he spent most of his early years in Alaska, Germany, and Texas.

Wayne's best friend is his dog Hoss, a mellow 17 year-old Red Heeler, who he's had since he was a ferocious little puppy.

In his spare time, Wayne enjoys spending time with his family, especially outdoors, snowmachining, keeping abreast of new technology and science, and working out at the Prince William Sound College Health and Fitness Center.

When asked his favorite thing about working at CVEA, he said, "it's actually a tie - our positive work environment and that we are a cooperative, owned by our

members and operating at cost."

CVEA COO, Travis Million, had this to say about Wayne, "First off, it is hard to believe Wayne has already been with CVEA for five years. Wayne was a excellent addition to the team at a time when we needed it the most. His knowledge of power generation and dedication to the cooperative is second to none. Since joining CVEA Wayne has helped to increase the efficiency of the power plants which has resulted in breaking the all time hydro generation output in 2018. I look forward to working with Wayne for many more years."

Congratulations to all CVEA service award recipients.

Thank you for your many contributions to your Cooperative and your community!



National Lineman Appreciation Day

On April 18, electric cooperatives across the nation will celebrate National Lineman Appreciation Day.

CVEA encourages all members to honor the dedicated co-op employees who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on. We proudly recognize all electric linemen for the services they perform around the clock in dangerous conditions to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

"Our linemen respond to outages at the worst times and in the worst conditions, yet they do it with pride and professionalism" said CVEA CEO John Duhamel. "Despite working with very dangerous equipment in difficult circumstances, they have a safety record better than we have seen before. I appreciate what they do for us every day."

A team of seven linemen maintain over 500 miles of transmission and distribution lines throughout CVEA's service territory.

CVEA encourages members to thank a lineman for the work they do this April, and invites members to visit the Copper Valley Electric Association Facebook page on April 18 to enter a comment of thanks and show your support for the employees who light up our lives.

Please use #thankalineman

Structural Support

The pros and cons of power pole options

By Craig Reed

Power poles are part of the landscape and are usually taken for granted. But they have a powerful purpose.

Whether wood, laminate wood, metal, concrete or composite fiberglass, poles are the structures to which transmission and distribution lines and transformers are attached. Working together, the system carries electricity to residences and businesses, powering lamps to refrigerators in homes and complicated computer systems to robotic machines for multimillion-dollar companies.

Using a pole for transmission came about in 1843 after Samuel Morse's demonstration project to send messages over a distance via underground telegraph wires proved ineffective. It was suggested the quickest way to complete the project would be to string telegraph wires overhead using wood poles. While the telegraph system eventually faded away, wood poles did not. They were there to provide the needed structure when electrical systems came on line.

For many decades, wood poles—whether from Douglas fir or cedar trees harvested in the Pacific Northwest, or yellow pine trees from the southern U.S.—had no competitors in providing structure for electrical wires, transformers, insulators and fuses. But that has changed with laminate wood, steel, composite fiberglass and concrete poles becoming options in recent decades.

Because wood poles have the longest history and the electrical industry has been traditionally conservative regarding change, wood is still the most popular option. But depending on conditions, other types of poles are being put into operation.

"Experimentation of the different poles is ongoing," says Brent Hill, vice president of sales for General Pacific, a company that provides products and services to the electrical industry. "Everybody is looking for structures that can withstand whatever Mother Nature has to offer, but I've read articles indicating they are all still susceptible to Mother Nature."

Following are the pros and cons for each of the different power pole options.

Brent Hill of General Pacific contributed information for this article.



Wood power poles are still the most common.

Photo courtesy of Brent Hill, GenPac

Wood

Wood poles are plentiful, renewable and the industry is most familiar with them. The life span of a treated wood poles is 30 to 40 years, but some that are 50 to 60 years old are still in good shape.

Pros:

- ▶ Easy to work with and easy to work on.
- ▶ Can be climbed by linemen and drilled to add attachments.
- ▶ Utilities already have the tools and equipment needed to work on the poles and to maintain them.

Cons:

- ▶ Susceptible to fire—especially if treated with a chemical preservative, which most are.
- ▶ Some people consider poles treated with a preservative not to be environmentally friendly because rainwater and groundwater can carry the preservative into nearby ground or the water system.
- ▶ Testing for deteriorating or rotting wood at the base or in the ground is required on a 5- to 10-year rotation, depending on location. Testing is needed more frequently in wet or coastal terrain than in a drier climate.
- ▶ Wood absorbs moisture. In freezing weather, poles can become brittle and susceptible to breaking in windstorms or when hit by falling branches or trees.
- ▶ Wood poles can be weakened by woodpeckers.

Laminate Wood

These poles are made from wood boards pressed and glued together under extreme pressure. They receive a preservative treatment after lamination. They have lasted more than 50 years.

Pros:

- ▶ Because of their tremendous strength, these poles are generally used where there is no room for guy wires, but the utility wants to use wood.
- ▶ The pole can be climbed and drilled using the same tools as on traditional wood poles. However, working from a bucket truck is preferred.

Cons:

- ▶ Heavier and more expensive than wood.



Photo courtesy of Brent Hill, GenPac

Steel/Metal

The second most popular, these poles are one of the strongest options. They are hollow, with about a quarter-inch of metal forming the exterior, and are usually several-sided rather than circular. They have an estimated life span of 60 to 80 years.

Pros:

- ▶ Being hollow, these poles are not too heavy.
- ▶ When erected correctly and in the right terrain, most do not need guy wires.
- ▶ Because they don't need a preservative treatment, they are environmentally friendly.
- ▶ In coastal and salty environments, steel lasts longer than wood.
- ▶ Steel doesn't need the maintenance and routine testing of wood. Visual condition checks usually are sufficient.
- ▶ They stand up better against strong winds.
- ▶ Steel is fire resistant.

Cons:

- ▶ Steel is more expensive than wood.
- ▶ Adding attachments to steel poles is more difficult than wood because welding or drilling on steel is difficult. It's best if the steel is pre-engineered for attachments before the pole goes in the ground.
- ▶ Climbing steel is a challenge, so it is best if the pole is accessible to bucket trucks. If not, steps or ladders can be used to access the top of the pole.
- ▶ Steel is more conductive than other pole options, so it can be detrimental to work crews and wildlife if the system on the pole is not in the best of shape and becomes energized.
- ▶ If hit by a vehicle, the strength of the pole is significantly impacted because it is hollow.



Photo courtesy of Valmont Industries

Composite

These poles can be made from a combination of materials, with the most prevalent being produced from a mixture of fiberglass and polyurethane resin. Plastics, reclaimed wood or medium-density fiber also can be used. Their longevity is estimated to be 60 to 80 years.

Pros:

- ▶ The lightest of the options, it still has strength that exceeds wood.
- ▶ Fiberglass is environmentally friendly. When used in a wet environment, there is no leaching of preservative.
- ▶ These poles can come in sections, making them easier to move and handle, even by hand in rough terrain.
- ▶ Drilling is possible using the same equipment used on wood.
- ▶ Maintenance is not extensive.

Cons:

- ▶ Composites are more expensive than wood.
- ▶ These poles are being monitored and tested for how they react to fire. They don't seem to hold up well, but can be treated with or manufactured with a fire-resistant product.
- ▶ Manufacturing composites requires more energy than milling and treating a wood pole, according to the Environmental Literacy Council.



Photo courtesy of Brent Hill, GenPac

Concrete

Reinforced concrete poles have become popular as line supports. They permit longer spans of line between poles, and have a life span of 60 to 80 years.

Pros:

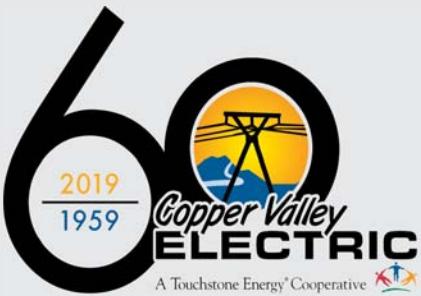
- ▶ Strength.
- ▶ They take little maintenance.
- ▶ They have good insulating properties.

Cons:

- ▶ The weight of these poles make them difficult and expensive to move. When used, they are usually manufactured on site.
- ▶ Few utilities in the West have the equipment to deal with these poles and to drill them, if needed, after they are upright.
- ▶ They can't be climbed unless holes or steps in the concrete have been pre-engineered. Otherwise, a bucket truck must be able to reach them.
- ▶ If they are knocked over by some event, they will do major damage to nearby structures and are difficult to clean up.



Photo courtesy of Valmont Industries



Board of Directors

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Open, Vice President
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Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.
Valdez District

(907) 835-4301
367 Fairbanks Dr.

After hours outage line
(866) 835-2832

Important Dates

April

CVEA Board Meeting: The April meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m. Thursday, April 18, 2019, in Glennallen

Voting Deadline: Director election ballots must be received in the correct CVEA mailbox by 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 23, 2019 *don't forget to sign the back of the ballot envelope

Annual Meeting: The CVEA Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, April 30, in the Copper Basin District; registration and fun begin at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6 p.m.

May

Annual Meeting: The CVEA Annual Meeting will be Thursday, May 2, in the Valdez District; registration begins at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6 p.m.

CVEA Board Meeting: The May meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, May 16, 2019, in Valdez

CVEA Offices Closed: The CVEA offices will be closed, Monday, May 27, 2019, for Memorial Day

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2019 Annual Meeting of Members

Copper Basin - Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Valdez - Thursday, May 2, 2019

The time has come! It's your final reminder to attend the 2019 Annual Meeting of Members. This is your opportunity, as a member-owner, to find out what's going on at CVEA and celebrate your Cooperative's 60th year of service, and the date is just around the corner!

The meeting will be Tuesday, April 30, 2019, in the Copper Basin District at the Alaska Bible College Murdock Campus Center and Thursday, May 2, 2019, in the Valdez District at the Valdez Civic Center. Registration, food service, and fun begin at 5:30 p.m. and the business meeting and celebration will begin promptly at 6 p.m.

Don't miss your chance to hear reports, learn about CVEA projects and issues, and ask questions about your electric cooperative. You'll also accept director election results and find out who won the CVEA Community Foundation scholarship awards.

Members are going to have so much fun playing CVEA trivia, enjoying special member recognition and a catered meal, and trying their luck at tons of cool prizes. Every member signed in by 6 p.m. will be eligible to win prizes, and will receive an awesome free gift.

There will be a Split-the-Pot fundraiser for the CVEA Community Foundation, which provides scholarships to students and contributions to nonprofit organizations in our communities, so don't forget to bring a little extra cash if you'd like to participate!

Vote in the Director Election

Per CVEA Bylaws, a minimum of 10 percent of the district membership must return their ballots to constitute a valid election. For this reason, even if there is only one candidate running per seat, we still need you to VOTE!

Don't forget to sign your ballot envelope and ensure it is received in the designated CVEA post office box by 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, 2019.

This year, all valid ballots received by the April 23 deadline will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 CVEA energy credit!

If you have questions regarding the annual meeting or the election, contact Sharon Scheidt at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email scheidt@cvea.org.

