



# 2023 Projects=Progress

CVEA's mission is to provide exceptional service through safe, reliable, cost-effective electric service and programs. With this mission in mind, the Cooperative completes important projects each year aimed at improving reliability, efficiency, or cost effectiveness.

The summer season, with long hours and increased daylight, is key to getting important projects completed for the benefit of Co-op members.

Each fall, CVEA updates membership on what the team has been up to.

The following highlights some of the more significant projects that have been worked on or completed so far this year:

### Relocation of Solomon Gulch Substation

This project started in 2022 and has continued through 2023. Here, you'll find a recap of the project scope and recent updates.

The Solomon Gulch Substation is located on top of the Solomon Gulch Powerhouse control room where it was constructed in 1981-1982. It turns out, this location was a bad choice as it no longer meets building codes and is at risk for becoming uninsurable by CVEA's insurance carrier.

While it may seem obvious, the specific code and insurance concerns are the two, large oil-filled transformers (1,166 gallons of mineral oil each) that are not separated from

each other or from the building by a two-hour fire barrier, and they share a common oil containment system.

This means that should a fire occur in one of the transformers (due to an electrical fault within the transformer), it could potentially destroy the second transformer, severely damage the building, and make the control room uninhabitable. It could also result in mineral oil spilling into the bay.

CVEA minimizes the risk of this occurring by continuously monitoring the pressure in both transformers and by performing the annual preventive maintenance and inspections.

An evaluation was performed, weighing the

option to modify the substation to meet the building codes against constructing a new substation in a suitable location. Because much of the substation equipment is over 40 years old and due to be replaced, the best long-term solution was to construct a new substation.

In addition, the current location has caused significant issues related to wildlife. We have had multiple bird 'strikes' over the years. In fact, there were three in July of this year alone. Each bird strike caused systemwide power outages and equipment damage.

The new, enclosed substation is complete and located adjacent to the warehouse (see image above). It will eliminate the concerns mentioned above

and includes upgrades to increase the serviceability and reliability of the plant. Other updates include:

- All foundations are complete
- The switchbuilding is complete
- All major equipment is on-site

The new substation is on track for a December 1, 2023 in-service date. Remaining construction activities for the project include the installation of structures that will allow the Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Plant to serve CVEA members, while rerouting power from the existing substation to the new switchgear, installation of wire and cable between the existing powerhouse, new switchbuilding, generator step-up transformers, and the transmission line, and finally, commissioning of the new switchgear.

### **Valdez Diesel Plant Equipment Maintenance**

Upgrades or replacement of many components at the Valdez Diesel Plant (VDP) became necessary in recent years as building and equipment neared or reached the end of useful service life. Without these projects, protection of VDP, a valuable asset in the CVEA system, was put at risk.

VDP is a critical piece of infrastructure housing five of CVEA's nine diesel generating engines. The engines provide a substantial amount of power through the winter months and are also used to power the City following a major system outage and during maintenance on the T-line

and substations.

In 2023, critical exterior maintenance work continued with sand blasting and re-coating of the diesel engine mufflers and radiators by contractor Partners Industrial. Check out the before and after photos on the right.

### **Operations Projects**

The Operations Department worked offensively this summer, completing several projects that were necessary to prevent the possibility of future equipment damage and reliability concerns.

Two years ago, the transformer barn in Valdez, where critical transformers and equipment are stored, collapsed due to atypical snowpack. Upon inspection, the team noticed the adjacent wire barn had started to collapse as well. In an effort to be proactive, protect equipment, and ensure the safety of employees, the wire barn was replaced this summer. A plan for the new transformer barn is being assessed. See photo of the new wire barn below.

A water line leak at the Glennallen Diesel Plant (GDP) this summer caused the team to spring into action. This was an unexpected project, but had to be completed before the long, cold days of winter hit the Valley because the pipe was very shallow and would freeze. The solution was to build a well that supported the Glennallen office and the Operations Building.

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# COPPER VALLEY ELECTRIC

## 2023 Projects

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### Operations Projects

Mother Nature continued to wreak havoc, causing changes throughout the service territory this summer. Crews had to move 380 feet of primary underground at the 40-Mile Alyeska access area due to a creek changing paths.

CVEA Line Crews and contractor, EPC, relocated a transmission tower at Moose Creek to save it from destruction as the creek continues to erode the bank, or mountainside, that supports the tower. The tower is 80 feet tall and weighs approximately 20,000 pounds. It had to be disassembled, components modified at HD Marine, and reassembled at a new location. This project was critical to ensure the continued reliability of the CVEA system.

If you have questions about these projects email Sharon Scheidt at [sscheidt@cvea.org](mailto:sscheidt@cvea.org). ■

**Top left, crews replaced 380 feet of primary underground cable due to the changing creek path**

**Top right, work on the Glennallen well project**

**Middle, images showing the change in the path of Moose Creek and the erosion of the bank**

**Bottom left, relocated Tower-130**  
**Bottom right, disassembling of Tower-130 for modifications and relocation**





Tour for the APA Annual Meeting delegates

# CVEA Crew Showed Off Co-op Assets this August

This August, the cast and crew at CVEA didn't let the continuous downpouring of rain stop them from showing off the Cooperative's hydropower assets. To the contrary, the team gave more tours during the month than ever before.

On Saturday, August 12, CVEA hosted a max capacity crowd of members for the fall Member Tour in Valdez. The Member Tour Program was developed to be a tool in the members' communication toolkit and an opportunity for CVEA members to gather information, learn how the system works, and ask any questions they have in a small, informal setting.

Participants from Valdez and the Copper Basin spent the day with the CVEA team visiting the Valdez Diesel Plant, the Cogeneration Plant, and the Solomon Gulch and Allison Creek Hydroelectric Projects. Members were treated to a quick lunch and enjoyed two award-winning videos from the *People Behind the Switch* video series.

Electric industry representatives from across the state and beyond descended on Valdez as part of the Alaska Power Association Annual Meeting the week of August 22. One high-

light of the week was a tour of the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project. The Co-op offered two trips up the beautiful mountainside, complete with sunshine and bear sightings. A quick stop at the newly completed Solomon Gulch substation rounded out the journey.

Finally, then CEO, Travis Million, braved the rain and wind for the opportunity to escort representatives Dan Smith (State Energy Coordinator), Chris McLean (Assistant Administrator, Rural Utility Services), and Rodney Peach (State Business & Cooperative Program Specialist) from Rural Utility Services (RUS) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to see the Allison Creek Project.

CVEA enjoys sharing the Cooperatives incredible assets with members, fellow industry professionals, local organizations, and educational institutions. If you are a member interested in the annual member tour, please watch for registration in summer 2024. For other opportunities, please contact Sarah Jorgenson-Owen, CVEA Marketing and Communications Specialist, at [sjorgensonowen@cvea.org](mailto:sjorgensonowen@cvea.org) to inquire. ■



# Four Ways to Boost Your Cyber Hygiene

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

By Abby Berry

In today's digital world, cyberattacks are unfortunately nothing new. Cyber criminals can attack on a multitude of levels, from large-scale attacks targeting corporations to smaller phishing attacks aimed to gain an individual's personal information.

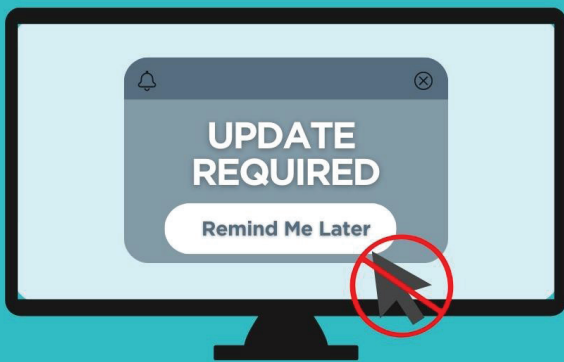
October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, but good cyber hygiene should be practiced year-round. This year, CVEA reminds members to "See Yourself in Cyber" – because we all have a part to play in cybersecurity. When we hear about massive data breaches, it can feel overwhelming and lead us to think we're powerless as individuals to stop cyber criminals.

The truth is, there are several practical steps we can take to safeguard our devices and data. Here are four easy ways to boost your cyber hygiene:

1. Enable multi-factor authentication. Also known as two-step verification, multi-factor authentication adds a second step when logging into an account (to prove you're really you), which greatly increases the security of the account. This second step could include an extra PIN, answering an extra security question, a code received via email or a secure token. Regardless of the type of authentication, this additional step makes it twice as hard for cyber criminals to access your account. Not every account offers multi-factor authentication, but it's becoming increasingly popular and should be utilized when available.
2. Use strong passwords and a password manager. Remember, passwords are the "keys" to your personal home online. Your passwords should always be long, unique and complex. Create passwords using at least 12 characters, never reuse passwords for multiple accounts and use a combination of upper- and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters.

# DON'T SNOOZE.

Update your computer and software regularly.



If you have a lot of accounts, consider using a password manager to store them easily and securely in one place.

3. Update software. It may seem obvious, but regularly updating software is one of the easiest ways to keep your personal information secure. Most companies provide automatic updates and will send reminders so you can easily install the update. If you're not receiving automatic software updates, set a reminder to do so quarterly. Be aware that some cyber criminals will send fake updates; these typically appear as a pop-up window when visiting a website. Use good judgement and always think before you click.
4. Recognize and report phishing attacks. Don't take the bait when cyber criminals go phishing. The signs of a phishing attack can be subtle, so take the extra time to thoroughly inspect emails. Most phishing emails include offers that are too good to be true, an urgent or alarming tone, misspellings and poorly-crafted language, ambiguous greetings, strange requests or an email address that doesn't match the company it's coming from. Most platforms like Outlook, Gmail and Mac Mail allow users to report phishing emails. If you suspect a phishing attempt, take an extra minute to report it.

Cyber criminals are here to stay, but when we all take a risk-based approach to our cyber behavior, we're creating a safer internet for all. Want more tips to improve your cyber hygiene? Visit [staysafeonline.org](http://staysafeonline.org).

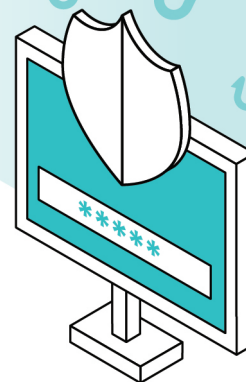
*Source: Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56% of the nation's landscape.*

# See Yourself in Cyber.

## October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Improve your cyber hygiene by doing these four things:

1. Enable multi-factor authentication
2. Use strong passwords and a password manager
3. Update software regularly
4. Recognize and report phishing attacks



We all share responsibility for our organization's online safety and security, and YOU are our first line of defense.

### Think Before You Click

- Always hover over a link first to be sure it is safe.
- Report suspicious emails or emails from an unknown sender to your spam filter and delete them from your inbox.

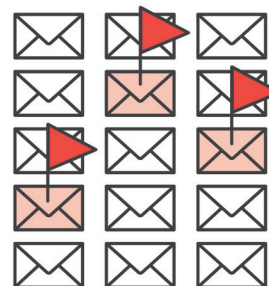


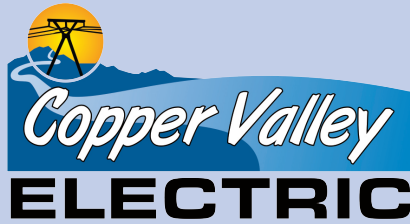
### Watch for Red Flags to Identify Potential Phish Attacks

- Phishing attempts seek to steal or compromise data and will often mimic a known sender.

Look for red flags:

1. the email is unexpected;
2. there is a sense of urgency conveyed;
3. there is an offer that seems too good to be true; and/or
4. there are typos and misspellings.





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367 Fairbanks Dr.

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**Important Dates**

**October**

**Co-op Month Pick-Your-Own Pumpkin Patch and Food Drive**

**Event:** This family event will be held in Glennallen on Saturday, October 14, and in Valdez on Saturday, October 21. The fun goes from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (while supplies last) \*Please be prepared for weather conditions. Watch for details on cvea.org, Facebook, and other local news sources.

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The October meeting of the Board of Directors is 9 a.m. Thursday, October 19, 2023, in Glennallen

**November**

**CVEA Board Meeting:** The November meeting of the Board of Directors is 10 a.m. Thursday, November 16, 2023, in Valdez

**CVEA Offices Closed:** CVEA will be closed Thursday, November 23, for the Thanksgiving holiday

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**Celebrate Community with CVEA at the Pick-Your-Own Pumpkin Patch**

- Join CVEA for the 2023 Co-op Month community event on Saturday, October 14, in Glennallen, and Saturday, October 21, in Valdez
- Fun for the family runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in each district (while supplies last)
- Stop by and pick your favorite pumpkin from the pumpkin patch
- Cost for entry to the pumpkin patch: bring food or a cash donation for the food drive (details below)
- Stay and decorate your pumpkin, and snap a picture at the fall-themed photo booth
- Enjoy drinks, snacks, treats, and dishes from local food vendors (\$)
- Support local nonprofit organizations through a Jazzy Gourmet Popcorn fundraiser, a hot cocoa bar, cotton candy, activities and games for prizes, and more (\$)

**Food Drive at the Pumpkin Patch**

- Bring nonperishable food items to the Co-op Month Pick-Your-Own Pumpkin Patch community event in your district (expired items will not be accepted)
- One food item (minimum) per person or a cash donation for the food bank in your district allows you to pick-your-own pumpkin (qty. limits per family)
- BONUS - bring extra food or cash donations and be entered to win a \$150 CVEA energy credit (one item = one extra drawing ticket)
- **Sorry, we cannot accept expired food**