



CRISP COUNTY POWER COMMISSION

Crisp County Power Commission Announces Rate Adjustments Amid Rising Costs

Crisp County, GA – The Crisp County Power Commission (CCPC) is unwavering in its commitment to delivering reliable and affordable energy to our community. However, due to persistent economic pressures and regulatory demands, we will implement a significant rate adjustment starting January 1, 2025. This decision, though difficult, was not made lightly but reflects the need to address significant challenges while ensuring the sustainability of our energy infrastructure and we want to assure our customers that we are doing everything possible to minimize the impact on their energy bills. The rate adjustment is driven by several significant factors including:

1. Rising Material Costs

Since 2021, The global inflation of raw materials and supply chain disruptions have dramatically increased the cost of critical components required for maintaining and upgrading our infrastructure. Some of the most significant impacts include:

- **Transformers:** Prices have increased by over 71%, driven by rising costs of copper, steel, and manufacturing processes.
- **Conductors and Cables:** Up by 70% due to increases in raw materials like aluminum and protective insulation materials.
- **Poles and Structural Supports:** Costs have risen by 86%, reflecting the increased price of treated wood, steel, and concrete used in pole production and crossarms.

These materials are essential for day-to-day operations, including outage response and storm hardening by replacing aging or damaged components and reinforcing poles, transformers, and lines to withstand severe weather events, safety improvements, and capacity expansion such as new infrastructure to support community growth and rising energy demands.

Rising global demand and supply chain disruptions have further amplified costs, placing unprecedented pressure on our operating budget and we are actively working with suppliers to find cost-effective solutions and optimize our inventory to reduce expenses. Despite these efforts, the global trend in material prices has created unavoidable financial challenges.

2. Environmental Compliance Costs for Coal Ash Removal

In compliance with federal and state environmental regulations and mandates, CCPC has undertaken extensive efforts to safely manage and remove coal ash from legacy sites. The coal ash removal process involves complex and specialized measures, including:

- **Environmental Monitoring:** Ensuring compliance with stringent environmental standards.
- **Safe Containment and Disposal:** Using advanced techniques to prevent groundwater contamination and protect ecosystems.

- **Sustainable Solutions:** Exploring innovative methods to minimize environmental impacts and reduce long-term costs.

To date, this initiative has cost approximately **\$13.6 million** covering specialized containment, transportation, and disposal services. While these actions are crucial for protecting our environment and ensuring public safety for the long term, they represent a substantial financial burden.

3. Maintenance and Upgrades to the Hydro Dam

Our hydroelectric facility, which has been operational since **1930**, remains a cornerstone of energy production for Crisp County and is a critical factor in keeping energy costs low for our customers. However, maintaining an asset of this age requires substantial investment to ensure its reliability and safety and CCPC has invested in critical upgrades, including structural reinforcements, turbine modernization and safety improvements. While necessary to ensure the dam operates efficiently and remains a reliable resource for the community, these improvements come with significant costs. We are pursuing grant opportunities and partnerships to help offset expenses and reduce the financial burden on our customers.

The energy produced by this facility saves CCPC approximately 12% in energy costs by reducing the need to purchase power from external sources. Even after factoring in maintenance and upgrade expenses—amounting to only 3-4% of revenue annually, the hydro facility provides a net savings of 8-9% on the overall cost of energy. This financial benefit helps stabilize energy prices and offset other rising costs by contributing to both short-term savings and long-term value for our customers.

4. Increasing Demand for Reliable Power

Crisp County has experienced consistent growth in residential, commercial, and industrial sectors, leading to an increasing demand for reliable energy. Meeting this demand requires ongoing investment in infrastructure, technology, and personnel to maintain uninterrupted service. Key drivers of this growing demand include:

- **Economic Development:** The expansion of local businesses and industries has increased energy consumption, requiring system upgrades to meet higher load demands.
- **Extreme Weather Resilience:** Changing weather patterns and more frequent severe storms have highlighted the need for robust and resilient infrastructure capable of handling extreme conditions.
- **Advancing Technology:** Customers are adopting more energy-intensive technologies, from electric vehicles (EVs) to smart home systems, placing additional demands on the grid.

To meet this increasing demand, CCPC has invested in:

- **Grid Modernization:** Upgrading equipment and implementing advanced monitoring systems to enhance grid performance.

- **Capacity Expansion:** Strengthening transmission and distribution systems to support higher loads.
- **Workforce Development:** Ensuring our team is equipped to respond to the growing needs of our community.

These proactive measures are essential to maintaining reliable service in the face of evolving energy needs, but they also require significant financial resources.

Our Commitment to Minimizing the Impact on You

At CCPC, we know how challenging rising costs can be for families and businesses. That's why we've taken every possible step to soften the impact of these adjustments:

- **Efficiency Programs:** We continue to invest in energy efficiency initiatives to help customers lower their energy usage and save money.
- **Operational Savings:** We've implemented internal cost-saving measures to reduce administrative and operational expenses.
- **Maintaining Competitive Rates:** Even with this adjustment, CCPC rates will remain **lower per kilowatt-hour (kWh) than Georgia Power Company**, ensuring our community continues to benefit from some of the most affordable energy in the state.

Supporting Our Community

The Crisp County Power Commission has proudly served the community since its founding in 1930, providing cost-effective energy solutions while supporting economic growth and environmental stewardship. We also recognize that this adjustment affects our customers, and we've worked tirelessly to minimize the increase. This decision was made with the utmost care, and only after exhausting all other options. Our focus remains on providing reliable service at the lowest possible cost, and we are confident that this adjustment is necessary to sustain our operations and meet future demands.

CCPC encourages customers to explore our energy efficiency programs and financial assistance resources to help manage energy usage and costs. For more information about the upcoming rate adjustments, find energy-saving tips, and links for financial assistance programs, visit <https://crispcountypower.com/> or contact us at (229) 273-3811.

We appreciate your understanding, trust, and support as we continue to work on behalf of Crisp County to sustain and strengthen our energy infrastructure and deliver safe, reliable, and affordable energy solutions.

Sincerely,



Chris Hewitt | General Manager
Crisp County Power Commission