



Backgrounder

History

Cuivre River Electric Cooperative (CREC) was incorporated March 6, 1941, by 12 men and women who wanted to make electricity available in rural areas of Lincoln, Montgomery, Pike, St. Charles and Warren counties. Their actions grew of frustration when existing electric utilities were reluctant to serve beyond the city limits. These utilities thought rural service could never be profitable, and rejected low interest loans offered by the *Rural Electrification Administration* (now *Rural Utility Service*) as early as 1935. Rural community leaders pooled resources, formed a cooperative, and applied for these federal loans. CREC paid off the last of these loans in 1987 and now obtains financing from private lenders responsive to CREC's more suburban needs.

Service Territory

As a condition of early federal loans, CREC developed a utility network for its entire four-county service area. Originally, CREC served any rural or unincorporated area. A state law prohibited cooperatives from serving cities with populations above 1,500. In the early 1990s the general assembly passed legislation allowing utilities and cooperatives to negotiate territorial boundaries that override the 1,500 rule with Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) approval. In 1993 CREC and Ameren received PSC approval of some territorial boundaries south of I-70 in St. Charles County. In 2002 the PSC approved some boundaries in Lincoln and Warren counties. In most agreements, each utility continues to serve its existing customers, but can reduce the costly, inefficient duplication of facilities. Many areas without designated territories remain. CREC has facilities in many locations that were once rural, but in some cases the cooperative still remains restricted from providing new electric service due to Missouri's 1,500 population rule.

Governing Body

The term "cooperative member" refers to a person, family, or business that purchases electricity from the cooperative. One member = one vote. CREC is governed by a board of 12 directors elected by CREC members at annual membership meetings. Each director lives in one of CREC's 12 districts.

Size

With over 68,000 members, Cuivre River is the largest of Missouri's 40 consumer-owned electric distribution cooperatives.

Residential meter distribution by county:

St. Charles County	58%
Lincoln County	25%
Warren County	14%
Pike County	2%
Montgomery County	1%

Power Supply

During the past year, clean, low-cost coal was the primary fuel (61%) used to generate electricity for CREC members. Natural gas (10%) was a critical secondary fuel to support reliability. Green power (19%) was provided by wind farms in Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma. Hydro power (7%) was provided through federal dam projects. The balance (3%) was purchased power.

Power suppliers include:

- **Central Electric Power Cooperative**, Jefferson City, Mo., provides transmission facilities and delivers power to substations for distribution to CREC members.
- **Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AECI)**, Springfield, Mo., generates electricity at coal and gas-based plants in Missouri and Oklahoma, and partners with suppliers to provide wind and hydro power.

AECI also uses its 21 interchange agreements and 165 interconnection points to make power transactions with other utilities for the benefit of its cooperative members.

Annual Statistics *(2021 financial and statistical report)*

Miles of line	5,655 miles
Kwhs power sold.....	1.383 billion kwhs
Density (meters per mile).....	12.45 meters
Avg. kwh per residential member ...	1,638 kwhs/month
Avg. bill, residential member	\$145.54/month