

## Annual Summer Substation Maintenance



Each summer, CVEA undertakes a comprehensive preventative testing and maintenance project at all nine substations throughout the Co-op's service territory. This significant project is typically completed May through June and is budgeted to cost over \$300,000. The team involved includes the CVEA Line Crew and Dispatch, with support from Management and representatives from SEI (contractor). SEI performs maintenance according to a 10-year plan; however, they also complete incidental repairs resulting from issues found throughout the year, and unscheduled, emergency repairs. The Line Crew and Dispatch provide support for switch orders, switching testing, and grounding. Some of the switching requires short power outages to work safely.

Despite the scale of this annual effort, the work is vital. Substations are crucial hubs that distribute power across the grid, and any equipment or infrastructure failures can lead to widespread outages. The project encompasses testing, repairing, and replacing oil circuit reclosers, current and spare transformers, arresters, oil circuit breakers, bushings, and gaskets. Additionally, crews will perform oil sample testing and firmware updates.

Substations ensure system reliability through relay and recloser coordination, and they can restore power by switching the direction of power feeds. Preventative maintenance like this is essential to keep the substations operational. Upgrading to the latest firmware helps reduce the likelihood of unplanned outages.

As critical equipment continues to age, such as at the Meals Substation, Pump Station 12, the Don Smith Substation, and Pump Station 11—all over 40 years old—the importance of annual

substation maintenance inspections and testing increases. Substation maintenance is important to ensure new equipment is functioning properly as well. The new Solomon Gulch Substation went through its first substation maintenance and testing cycle in 2025. These efforts are key to supporting CVEA's strategic goal of maintaining and improving system reliability.

If you have questions regarding substation maintenance, email Customer Service at [customerservice@cvea.org](mailto:customerservice@cvea.org).