

Cookeville Electric Department

TMEPA Member Spotlight

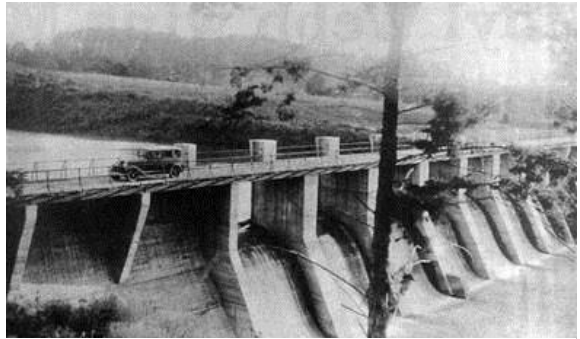
August 2017



The City of Cookeville, incorporated in 1903, is located 79 miles east of Nashville and 101 miles west of Knoxville in the Upper Cumberland Region of Middle Tennessee. Cookeville is a regional center for employment, education, retailing, health care, and recreational and cultural activities. Approximately

15,000 Upper Cumberland Region residents travel to Cookeville each day to work, attend school, receive health care, shop, or participate in leisure activities. Cookeville is recognized as one of the country's micropolitan areas, smaller cities which function as significant economic hubs. Of the twenty micropolitan areas in Tennessee, Cookeville is the largest. It is the county seat to Putnam County and home of Tennessee Technological University.

In 1905, the Cookeville Light and Water Department was organized and electric power was first provided to the city. The first power plant was located near the old city fire hall. The primary use of this plant was for street lighting. Those fortunate enough to have lights in their homes were not allowed to burn them during the daylight hours. Years later, the plant became outdated and was constantly in need of repair.



Burgess Falls

In 1921, the city began construction on a hydroelectric plant at Burgess Falls. The dam was destroyed due to flooding and rebuilt in 1929. In 1934, the City of Cookeville began purchasing partial power requirements in excess of its hydro-power production from Tennessee

Electric Power Company. The city was buying some power from Tennessee Electric Power Company when TVA started selling power to the city in November 1944, a partnership that continues today.



South West Substation

Today's Cookeville Electric Department is located on a 22-acre site, of which approximately 11.5 acres are developed. Cookeville and the Upper Cumberland Region are rapidly growing. The department has 44 employees and operates five electrical substations, the most recent of which was completed in 2012 to help meet the electrical needs of the newly developed Highlands Business Park.

The sale of electricity in Cookeville has risen from 342,000 kWh in December 1944 to 46,762,601 kWh sold in FY 2017. Our customers have increased from 1,320 to 17,765 as of June 2017. As of 2017, CED has approximately 340 miles of 13 kV overhead distribution line, 216 miles of 13 kV underground distribution, and 16 miles of 69 kV transmission line.



Late 1950s or early 1960s



2017

Cookeville Electric Department does more than sell electricity. We offer a variety of service programs to benefit the needs of our customers including budget billing, bank draft payment plans, online bill pay, and Project Help to name a few. CED also partners with TVA to offer residential, commercial, and industrial programs that provide advice and incentives to foster a more energy-conscious environment. CED has been and continues to be proactive in planning system improvements, implementing new customer service programs and collaborating with TVA to keep pace with an ever-changing and challenging environment. We have purchased and are in the process of installing a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System. We have also hired an engineering firm to assist us in choosing an appropriate Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System. CED will utilize these technological tools to be proactive in maintaining our distribution system and provide excellent customer service to our customers.

Our mission at the Cookeville Electric Department is to provide the best quality power and the best customer service while keeping the price low and service interruptions to a minimum. We like what we do, and we are proud to be providing a necessary service to the community.

