



CVEA Wind Generation Display - The Results Are In



In the summer and fall of 2012 CVEA installed distributed generation displays at each of the Cooperative's office buildings. The goal for installing the displays is to provide the Membership with a visible installation, displaying the minimum requirements to interconnect as part of the Net Metering Program and to show the amount of electrical energy you could expect to offset from a solar array in the Copper Basin or a wind turbine in Valdez.

As mentioned in the "What's Happening with Wind" article in the November 2013 issue of *Ruralite*, the MET tower in Valdez did not prove to be "good wind" for a commercial wind turbine; the smaller style wind turbine used for the generation display did not appear to be a good investment either. The capacity factor on the turbine located next to the Valdez office was just 2.57 percent after

just over two years of operation. The total generation output was 1,283 kWh or the amount that a residential member could use in about two months.

With an initial investment of \$33,600 and a non-firm power purchase rate of 18 cents per kWh of avoided energy cost, there is no hope of ever paying back the initial investment.

Having served its purpose in Valdez, CVEA put the turbine up for sale. The asking price of \$10,000 was offered by an Alaska alternative generation distributor and was accepted in the summer of 2014.

The turbine was decommissioned in November of last year.

If you have questions about this or any CVEA topic, please contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email crisp@cvea.org. ■