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## NEWS RELEASE

**Choctawhatchee Electric Cooperative**  
**P.O. Box 512**  
**Defuniak Springs, FL 32435**  
[www.chelco.com](http://www.chelco.com)

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Ashley Williams  
Director of Communications  
850-307-1121  
[awilliams@chelco.com](mailto:awilliams@chelco.com)

### **CHELCO REDUCES MEMBER BILLS AGAIN IN DECEMBER**

CHELCO will reduce members' bills again this month by about \$340,000, bringing the total savings to members in November and December to nearly \$700,000.

CHELCO's margins for 2015 have been more than budgeted. Margins are the funds remaining after all expenses are paid at the end of the year.

The reasons for the high margins are threefold. First, CHELCO reduced controllable costs below budget to save members money. CHELCO also avoided some wholesale power costs through its Beat the Peak programs. Members contributed to this effort by conserving power at times of peak demand. Finally, PowerSouth, CHELCO's wholesale power supplier, refunded higher than projected excess margins to CHELCO.

Members can participate in the Beat the Peak program by responding to requests by CHELCO to conserve energy during period of high demand for power, particularly on very cold winter mornings.

Savings will be reflected in the distribution cost adjustment (DCA). The change will be the same as in November. Without the reduction, the DCA would be a charge of \$.00275 per kilowatt-hour (kWh). With the reduction, the DCA has been changed to a credit of \$.00325 per kWh. A CHELCO member using 1,000 kilowatt-hour (kWh) would save \$6.

The DCA is a line item that tracks changes in the cost to deliver power to members. It can increase or decrease, depending on how expenses fluctuate.

CHELCO similarly reduced rates in November and December 2014. The opportunity to provide this type of credit to members comes from CHELCO's determination to reduce costs while focusing on safety, member satisfaction and reliability.

“As we approached the end of the year, we could see that our margins were going to be higher than forecast. Our member-elected Board of Trustees took the initial step of reducing November's rates,” said CHELCO CEO Steve Rhodes. “When it became apparent that the margins would remain high, the board approved the decrease for December as well. We are proud of our successes, especially the past two years. We also want to thank our members who respond to our Beat the Peak telephone calls to conserve energy.”

CHELCO is a not-for-profit electric distribution cooperative serving more than 47,000 members in Walton, Okaloosa, Holmes and Santa Rosa counties. Please visit [chelco.com](http://chelco.com) for more information.

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