*Contact Tobias Sellier, Senior Director of Media Relations and Communications at* *TSellier@PublicPower.org* *or 202-467-2927*

**CDE Lightband receives national energy innovator award**

**San Diego, California, June 11, 2024** — CDE Lightband, of Clarksville, Tennessee, received an American Public Power Association Energy Innovator Award during the American Public Power Association’s National Conference in San Diego, California. The award honors utilities that have developed or applied creative, energy-efficient techniques and technologies to their work, in order to provide better service to electric customers or projects that increase the efficiency of utility operations or resource efficiency.

CDE Lightband set out to improve its emergency response capabilities, especially within disadvantaged communities in its service territory. The utility established a central data lake to unite previously unconnected streams of data, both internal and external, to identify specific locations for system enhancements, such as power line undergrounding. CDE identified 29 adjacent electric distribution circuits with higher-than-average outage frequencies and durations that had been damaged by storms in recent years. CDE also identified an optimal location for a large capacity lithium-ion battery near the ends of two isolated circuits and conducted system modeling to determine the ideal battery size to serve these circuits’ normal loads during outage conditions. This data-driven process will inform CDE’s long-term distribution system automation and enhancement strategy and could save the community and its businesses more than $232 million.

###

*The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. We represent public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities serve, and the 96,000 people they employ. Our association advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. Our members strengthen their communities by providing superior service, engaging citizens, and instilling pride in community-owned power.*