

Powering Our Rural Communities

Nominating Committee Meets to Identify Director Candidates



DCEC CEO/General Manager, Mark Schneider and newly appointed Director, Shawn Hartwell at the 2012 Annual Meeting

Each year, an independent committee of DCEC members work to recruit members interested in running for the DCEC board at the Cooperative's Annual Meeting. This year members will elect new directors at the 2013 Annual Meeting scheduled for

September 20. The Committee, which kicked off their work on April 25, will submit official nominations by July 22.

Members interested in learning more about being a director or becoming a candidate, should contact members of the Nominating Committee or the DCEC office. All candidates will be expected to submit a letter to the Nominating Committee presenting your credentials and qualifications and explain why you are interested in serving on the DCEC Board of Directors. Further details are available on the DCEC website.

The director positions that are up for election in 2013 include:

- Central Region: Towns of Bovina, Delhi, Franklin, Hamden, Kortright and Meredith.

2013 DCEC Nominating Committee:

Central Region:	Northern Region:	Southern Region:
Frank Eppich	Harry Peterson	Carol LaTourette
Anthony Caruso	Christine Hauser	Stephen Hodge
Steve Mason	Tom Courtenay-Clack	Art Reed
Wesley Warren		
Wayne Oliver		

**For Our Members Convenience, DCEC Now Offers a Toll-Free Number to Contact Our Office:
(866) 436-1223**



In Memory of Owen Howarth



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of a former Delaware County Electric Cooperative Director and past President, Mr. Owen Howarth. Owen passed away on Sunday, March 31 in Oneonta, NY.

Owen served on the Delaware County Electric Board of Directors from August of 1959 until September of 1993. In 1985 Owen was elected to serve as Vice-President of the board and in 1986 he was elected to serve as the Board President. He held that position until 1989.

Owen loved the Cooperative and everything that it stood for. Owen's deep-seated passion for the Rural Electrification Program always shone through when he traveled to Washington, D.C. to speak with our legislators and congressmen and women to rally for the support of the programs that are still in place today. Owen's jolly demeanor and broad smile (and the laughs over a cold Guinness) made him well known and well liked among his peers in the co-op world.

The staff and Board of Directors thank Owen for his many years of dedicated and passionate service to the Delaware County Electric Cooperative and its members.

Miranda Selected as Student Legislative Youth Delegate



Miss Karina Miranda of St. Francis Preparatory was selected by the DCEC Board of Directors on April 23 to be the Cooperative's 2013 Legislative Youth Delegate. As a Youth Delegate, Karina represented DCEC at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. that occurred from April 28—May 1. Karina is the daughter of Anna Maria Vitek of Bayside, NY who also owns a home served by DCEC in Jefferson.

Each year, 11TH grade sons and daughters of DCEC members are given the opportunity to apply and be considered to represent the Cooperative at this national event.

Continued on Page 2...

Legislative Youth Delegate... *Continued from Page 1*

Students are selected based on their academic achievement, involvement in extra-curricular activities, letters of recommendation, and service to the community.

As a Youth Delegate, Karina accompanied DCEC officials to Washington. She joined representatives from 900 other rural electric co-ops in meetings with Congressional leaders on Capitol Hill.

New York Power Authority Contracts Protect DCEC from Market Volatility

This winter's below average temperatures drove up the demand for natural gas for heating homes throughout New York and New England. As demand for natural gas rose, so did the price. Electric power generation in New York relies heavily on natural gas, with about a third of all electricity in New York State being generated by burning natural gas. Therefore, wholesale electricity prices in New York spiked to as high as 21 cents/kWh in January and February 2013.

Fortunately for DCEC, we have long term power purchase agreements in place with the New York Power Authority (NYPA) for about 90% of our energy needs. Without the benefit of stably priced hydro-energy from NYPA, our power costs would have been substantially higher in January and February. Our current contract with NYPA expires in the year 2025.

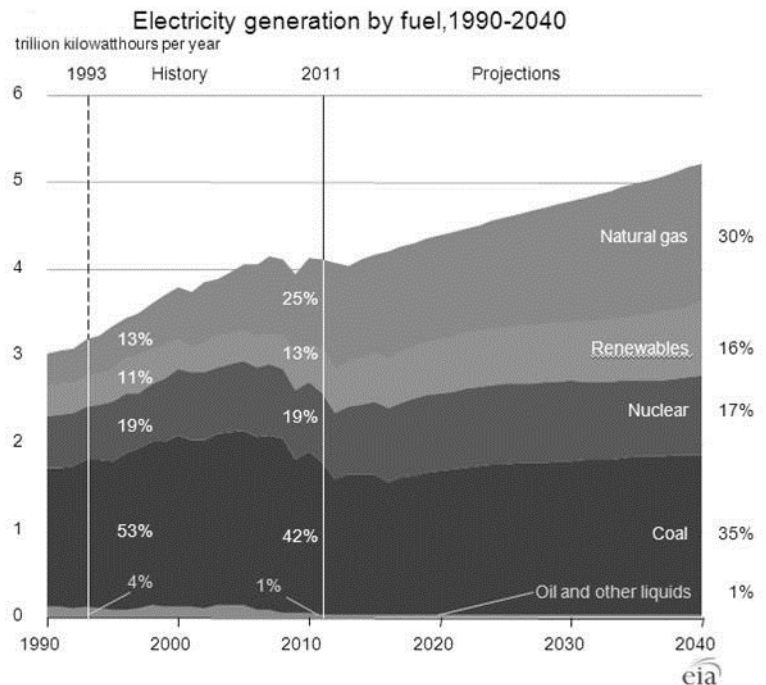


Chart courtesy of US Energy Information Administration (EIA)

DCEC Completes Annual Audit

Each year, the DCEC board retains an outside accounting firm to conduct a comprehensive audit of DCEC financial practices and internal controls. For the third year in a row, the auditing firm of Buffamante, Whipple, Buttafaro, P.C. (BWB), located in Jamestown, N.Y., was hired and completed a very comprehensive audit of how DCEC processes payments, conducts business and records financial transactions from all departments. They also reviewed the strength of DCEC internal controls to ensure against the risk of fraud or inaccuracies in DCEC's financial accounting practices.



We are pleased to report to our members that the findings for 2012 have revealed that DCEC is in good, sound financial standing with no deficiencies identified in internal control practices.

JE 2-36-2C

Are You Interested In Being On DCEC's Fixed Budget?

Members interested in being on DCEC's fixed budget plan need to contact the office by the end of June in order to be enrolled. Members can also elect to be on a variable budget plan which you can sign up for at any time throughout the year as long as you have 12 consecutive months of usage.

For more information on the budgets plans please contact the DCEC office.

Check Out DCEC's Updated Website

DCEC's website has recently been updated to include new material for members such as new service information and updated DCEC products and programs. You can also find a "Member Consent" form on our website so that you may give permission to an authorized individual, not listed on your account, to obtain any billing and/or usage information.

Please also refer to DCEC's website (www.dce.coop) for information on the Nominating Committee, upcoming Annual Meeting and Director Elections taking place on Friday, September 20, 2013.

DCEC Participates In National Safety Program

Safety has always been a large part of everything we do here at the Cooperative. Not only are we responsible for the safety of our employees, we are also responsible for the safety of the general public. We are now taking the safety aspect to a new level. Our Board of Directors as well as our CEO/General Manager, Mark Schneider have allowed us to participate in a program called the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP).

RESAP is a program that is administered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Administration (NRECA) and recognizes cooperatives that voluntarily participate in this program and become certified as to their standards. This results in a reduction in the insurance costs provided to our cooperative.

We began this process last year when a team assembled by NRECA came to DCEC and did a complete safety assessment of everything we do here at the Cooperative. This included inspections of our office buildings, garage facilities, substations, vehicles, as well as our documentation of the required trainings we provide our employees. At the completion of this inspection we received written documentation and a summary of where we need to make improvements. From this summary we were required to create a safety improvement plan with specific completion dates. The improvements identified in the plan have all been completed.

This safety achievement program has helped us to identify areas that needed attention and is allowing us to create a safety culture that is important not only here at work, but at home as well.

This year we will do our own safety self assessment covering the same things that were covered in the initial assessment. Again, we will sit down and create a new safety improvement plan to correct any findings. The following year we will have a team, assembled from other cooperatives, come and do this same assessment again. After this third assessment we will become certified and be recognized for our achievements by NRECA.

This whole process does not end once we receive this certification. We are creating this safety culture or safety mind set, as we refer to it, that will continue to evolve each and every day. Safety has to be a part of our everyday lives and it is important for each and every one of us to remember!



Electrical Safety Tips for Spring and Summer

As you spend more time outdoors this spring and summer try to remember these safety tips:

- ◆ Always keep power cords and electrical equipment away from water or other wet areas.
- ◆ Look up and look out for overhead power lines. Be sure you are aware of any nearby lines before you climb a ladder or extend the handle of a pool-cleaning tool.
- ◆ Call before you dig! Whether you are a homeowner landscaping your yard or a professional contractor digging utility trenches, remember to call 811 at least two working days before you dig. It is required by N.Y. State law.
- ◆ Keep materials, tools and all parts of your body at least 15 feet away from any overhead power lines at all times, including during installation of antennas or satellite dishes. If you plan to get any closer please contact the DCEC office before doing so.
- ◆ Never fly kites or model airplanes near power lines, radio, or TV antennas. If your kite does get tangled with overhead lines, do not try to get it down yourself. Have someone call the DCEC office for assistance. Never use any metallic material in your kite.
- ◆ Before every use, inspect power tools and electric lawn mowers for frayed power cords, broken plugs and weathered or damaged housings. Keep tools unplugged and stored in dry areas when they are not in use.
- ◆ Before you trim tree limbs and shrubs, watch out for power lines that could be hidden by foliage. Contact the DCEC office if there are concerns about tree limbs growing into or around overhead power lines on your property.
- ◆ Instruct the kids to stay away from utility substation fences and pad-mounted transformers.
- ◆ Do not hang birdhouses, signs, basketball hoops, etc. on electric poles. This could cause harm to our linemen.
- ◆ Do not landscape around poles with flower boxes or anything else that might cause harm to a lineman.



Operations Update

Line Reconstruction:



DCEC line crews are rebuilding 2 miles of electric line on West Terry Clove Rd, in the Town of Hamden, and will start a 1.55 mile line rebuild on the Barkaboom Rd. in the Town of Andes.

DCEC crews will also be finishing up pole replacements on Angel Mountain in the Town of Andes and the building of a small tie line in the Town of Meredith.

Members affected will be notified of any potential planned outages for the safety of our linemen.

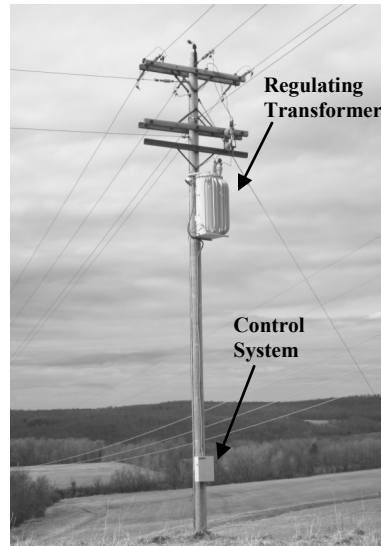
Right of Way (ROW) Clearing:

DCEC crews will be clearing line on East Brook, Gray, Munn, Ridge and Stoodley Hollow Roads in the Town of Hamden.

DCEC contractor, KW Reese, will be clearing 41 miles of right-of-way in the Town of Jefferson (Schoharie County) and the Town of Harpersfield (Delaware County).

Members will be notified with the start date in case there are any concerns.

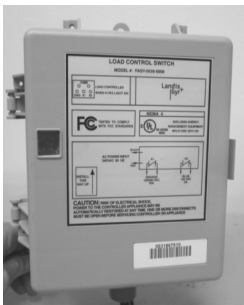
What Is a Regulating Transformer (or Regulator)?



The regulating transformer (or regulator) is a transformer which has the ability to adjust the voltage of the primary distribution line and hence the delivered voltage to member/customers automatically. Regulation is necessary as the power system's voltage levels vary on almost a continuing basis depending upon loading and system conditions. Through the use of an automated control system, regulators are set to maintain the delivered

voltage to within certain limits, thus ensuring quality power delivery. Regulator locations are selected for points on the system where experience and planning has shown that voltage control is required to ensure power quality. Regulators are installed at all DCEC substations and at key locations on the primary distribution system. Regulator installations are inspected regularly by DCEC personnel to ensure proper operation. The photo depicts a typical distribution line regulator installation.

Save \$4.00 a month on your electric bill. Contact DCEC and ask about our hot water heater Load Management Program!



DCEC Office Closing Reminder:

DCEC's office will be closed on Monday, May 27, 2013 for Memorial Day



DCEC staff asks our members to remember our fallen heroes who have served our Country.

Community Calendar



DCEC Annual Meeting
Friday, September 20, 2013

Sidney Annual Hometown Day Parade
June 8, 2013 @ 1 pm

Stamford Flag Day Parade
June 14, 2013 @ 6 pm



Is Your Location Number in This Issue?

Your service location number begins with two letters and is located on your bill next to your account number. Keep your eyes peeled for the "hidden location number" in this newsletter! If you find the number, and it is your service location you will receive a DCEC fleece sweatshirt! **Good luck!**



CATSKILL HI-LINE is a Publication of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc. and is published bi-monthly for the membership. The information contained herein is designed to communicate aspects of the cooperative to its members. Statements published do not necessarily reflect the official position of the cooperative. The information has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, and the editor has exercised reasonable care to assure its accuracy.

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Vice President..... Hartley Russell
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Treasurer..... Stephen Oles
Director..... Ernest Bartz

Director..... Shawn Hartwell
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