

*Powering Our Rural Communities*

## *Happy Holidays!*

*The Directors, Managers, and Staff of DCEC would like to wish our Members a Joyous Holiday Season, Good Health, and Happiness in the New Year!*

### DCEC Holds 68th Annual Meeting of the Members



*DCEC Employees Receive Service Awards, left to Right: Wayne Marshfield, James Bright, Larry Soule & Don Buel (Photo courtesy of The Walton Reporter)*

Members gathered on Friday, September 21st for DCEC's 68th Annual Meeting at the Delaware Academy & Central School in Delhi. A total of 197 people attended including 120 voting members.

DCEC Board President, Frank Winkler, called the meeting to order and introduced special

guests that were in attendance. He then turned the podium over to DCEC CEO/General Manager, Mark Schneider, who took a few moments to share memorial comments and recognition for the passing of co-op employee John Lilholt, and Ginny Bartz, wife of DCEC board member Ernie Bartz.

*Continued on Page 2...*

### DCEC Disconnect Policy

DCEC's disconnect policies and procedures are designed to meet the regulations of the New York Power Authority (NYPA) and to limit the amount of subsidization of non-paying members by the general membership. Disconnections are a very unfortunate aspect of our business, but they serve an important purpose: they force DCEC and the member to find a solution to a non-payment problem before the amount owed grows to an unmanageable level.

*Continued on Page 2...*

### Hurricane Sandy Outages

Effects of Hurricane Sandy hit DCEC electric lines on the evening of October 29th. At one point we had 1,150 members without electric service, and all were restored by early evening on October 30th.

Numerous trees had fallen creating broken wires, three broken poles and damage to a limited number of homes. Overall we were much more fortunate than our fellow utilities downstate.



*DCEC Lineman, Steve Little, stands next to a broken pole near the Andes substation.*

### Rate Structure Changes Planned

Starting in April of 2013 you will see a couple of important changes on your electric bill. Each monthly residential and seasonal bill currently includes a Service Charge, an Energy Charge per kWh, and a Power Cost Adjustment per kWh. In April of 2013 a portion of the Power Cost Adjustment per kWh will be shifted to the category called Energy Charge per kWh. During the rate design process for our newest member, Amphenol Corporation, DCEC staff concluded that certain costs currently being charged to the Power Cost Adjustment do not meet the strict criteria of being variable power costs that cannot be predicted for future months. Therefore, those costs will be more appropriately categorized as part of DCEC's "base rate," referred to as the Energy Charge per kWh on members' bills. The net impact on prices paid by members will be zero and the Cooperative will not increase or decrease our revenues based on this change. The change was necessary in order to have a consistent and fair rate structure for all existing and new members, whether large or small energy consumers, that are added to DCEC's system.

## Annual Meeting... *Continued from Page 1*

In his CEO/General Manager's Report, Mark Schneider updated members on current co-op operations and plant investments, the Amphenol project, the landfill gas project shut-down, and DCEC rates.

Members voted on the election of two directors to serve on the DCEC board. Results of the director elections were:

- ◆ Northern Region (Towns of Davenport, Gilboa, Harpersfield, Jefferson, Maryland, Stamford & Summit)  
Shawn Hartwell 56 Christine Hauser 53
- ◆ Southern Region (Towns of Andes, Bainbridge, Colchester, Masonville, Middletown, Sidney, Tompkins & Walton)  
Dominick Dominguez 28 Hartley Russell 83

Members heard presentations from the Delaware County Dairy Princess Miquela Hanselman and the DCEC 2012 Legislative Youth Delegate Elissa Starheim; both were presented with gifts. Service awards were presented to Operations Manager, Wayne Marshfield for 45 years, Systems Coordinator, Larry Soule for 25 years, Lineman, James Bright for 25 years, and Saw Operator 1, Don Buel for 15 years. Directors Steve Oles and Meg Hungerford were also recognized for serving on the DCEC Board for 20 and 5 years, respectively. A special plaque was presented to retiring Director, Dave Hartwell, for his 26 years of service on the board.

Prior to the business meeting, members were served a barbecued chicken dinner by Brooks House of BBQ in the school cafeteria. At the end of the meeting there was a drawing for door prizes.



*DCEC CEO/General Manager, Mark Schneider congratulates new DCEC Director, Shawn Hartwell*

## DCEC Disconnect Policy... *Continued from Page 1*

Recently the fees were changed to cover the Cooperative's current costs to perform actions associated with disconnection and reconnection. The table below summarizes those fees. Note that these fees are calculated to cover costs and do not include any penalties to the member or profit for the Cooperative.

ACTIVITY	ASSOCIATED FEE
Disconnect Notice Mailing Fee	\$11
Trip Charge (even if payment is made to DCEC employee at service location to prevent disconnection)	\$100
On-site Disconnect Fee	
Remote Disconnect Fee (procedure still requires DCEC employee to make trip to service location)	
On-site Reconnect Fee During Regular Business Hours (7:30 AM – 4:00 PM)	\$100
On-site Reconnect Fee Outside Regular Business Hours (After 4:00 PM)	\$200
Remote Reconnect Fee During Regular Business Hours (7:30 AM – 4:00 PM)	\$25
Remote Reconnect Fee Outside Regular Business Hours (After 4:00 PM)	\$40
Reconnection at Transformer (2-Man Crew) During Regular Business Hours (7:30 AM – 4:00 PM)	\$225
Reconnection at Transformer (2-Man Crew) Outside Regular Business Hours (After 4:00 PM)	\$400

One aspect of our disconnection procedure that has been quite controversial is the use of certified mailings to members who are subject to disconnection for non-payment. The use of certified mailings, the timing of those mailings, and the verbiage in those mailings are all requirements of the New York Power Authority regulations. Although we are sympathetic to the objections to these certified mailings raised by some of our members, DCEC is compelled to continue with the practice in order to comply with NYPA regulations.

Please contact CEO/General Manager, Mark Schneider, if you have any questions or comments about our policies and procedures related to disconnection for non-payment.

## DCEC Heat Pump Hot Water Heater Project Begins Installations

Installations of heat pump water heating equipment for those members participating in DCEC's energy efficient water heating demonstration project began on October 24th. The heat pump water heaters are being installed by DCEC contractors James Tucker and Charlie Beveridge with guidance and provisioning provided by Benjamin Ealey and Glen Bailey of the Electric Power Research Institute's (EPRI) Energy and Power Delivery Utilization group based in Knoxville, Tennessee. The heat pump hot water heaters and associated instrumentation are being installed with funding provided to DCEC by NYSERDA for the purposes of demonstrating the effectiveness of this water heating technology in the northeastern United States. Equipment installations at selected locations will continue through the end of 2012.



*Heat pump hot water heater installed at DCEC member Tom Little's house*

**DE 4-38-16A**

## Upcoming Holiday Parades & Events



With the arrival of the holidays you may want to check out what events the area has to offer:

- ◆ Friday, 12/7—Sidney, 6:30 pm— the Annual Jolly Holly Parade
- ◆ Saturday, 12/1— Delhi, 11:00 am— the 14th Annual O'Connor Hospital Holiday Parade.
- ◆ Saturday, 12/8— Delhi, 6:00 pm — Victorian Christmas on the Square

## DCEC Shutting Down Waste-to-Energy Project



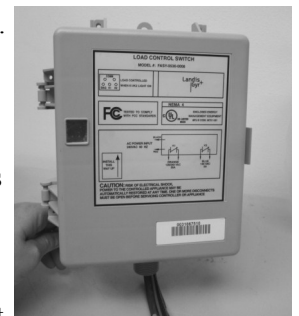
*Delaware County Waste-to-Energy Project*

DCEC's Waste-to-Energy Project is being shut down because the expenses of operating the plant exceed the benefits to our members. The plant's revenues were limited by smaller than expected gas supply from the landfill in combination with lower than expected energy prices. Currently DCEC is marketing the plant assets including the engine/generator in order to recover as much of our initial investment as possible. The Waste-to-Energy project is presently on DCEC's balance sheet with a value of \$1.91 million based on the initial cost to construct it. DCEC will probably recover approximately \$250,000 by liquidating the assets of the plant. The net cost to DCEC, which will be spread out over approximately 10 years, will be approximately \$1.66 million. Carrying this expense has made the rates paid by members approximately 2% higher than they would have been in the absence of the Waste-to-Energy project.

## Reduce Your Electric Bill by Participating In DCEC's Load Management Program

Currently DCEC is in the process of upgrading our hot water heater Load Management program. The original program was installed in 1989 and for various reasons needs to be upgraded. The Load Management program allows our computer controlled software to temporarily interrupt the heating of your hot water heater for short periods of time. This interruption would occur during peak loading times sometime between the hours of 7:00—10:00 am or pm and would occur most likely in the months of December, January or February. Peak load times are defined as those times when the most electricity is used by the entire cooperative membership. The purpose of the program is to lower power costs from our power supplier, thus letting us pass this savings on to the member with a lower Power Cost Adjustment surcharge.

The Cooperative or our contractor, Wire Nutz Electric, will install the load controller in your hot water heater circuit at no charge. If at any time you wish to no longer participate we will remove the unit. In the past, a \$2.00 monthly credit has been applied to the participant's electric bill. Pending approval by the DCEC Board of Directors at the November 27th board meeting this credit will be increased to \$4.00 per month. If you would like to participate and have at least a 30 gallon electric hot water heater and use at least 350 Kwh's per month, please call (607) 746-9284 and your questions will be answered and your information forwarded to the installer if requested. Those members who have the old load controllers, as of the above stated billing period will no longer receive a credit unless they are upgraded to the newer version. This has been a very successful program for the members and with your continued participation it should continue to benefit the membership for many years to come.





## Operations Update



### Pole Replacement & Line Reconstruction:

DCEC line crews are replacing poles from NY State Route 28 to Upper Dingle Hill, as well as replacing poles and wires on Little Dingle Hill and Perch Lake Roads in the Town of Andes.

### Right of Way (ROW) Clearing:

KW Reese, a DCEC contractor, has completed 32 miles of right-of-way clearing in 2012.

DCEC crews continue clearing in the Towns of Kortright and Davenport through the end of 2012. Clearing will take place on Delaware County Route 12, Frisbee Road, NY State Route 23 and Stone Fort Road. Planning work is underway on line locations that will be cleared in 2013.

### DCEC Office Closing Reminder:

DCEC's office will be closed on the following days:



- \* Thursday, November 22nd, and
- \* Friday, November 23rd for Thanksgiving
- \* Monday, December 24th for Christmas Eve
- \* Tuesday, December 25th for Christmas Day
- \* Tuesday, January 1st for New Year's Day



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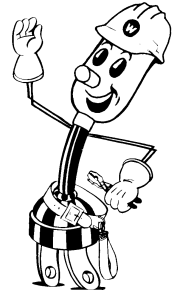
### Is Your Location Number in This Issue?

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!**

## DCEC Becoming A Leader In Safety

In July 2012 DCEC became the first electric cooperative in NY State to participate in the Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program. The program enhances a utility's culture of safety by promoting continuous safety improvement. This means that all DCEC employees strive to be safer today than we were yesterday, each and every day. Some of the safety improvements are small, like keeping a tidy truck and work area. Other changes are big, like changing the layout of our pole yard or installing a new radio repeater in the Andes portion of our service territory. No safety problem is too small or too big to tackle. When we identify a problem, DCEC staff act immediately and diligently to pursue a safe solution. All of these changes give our linemen a better chance of going home safely to their families each night after a day of building and maintaining the electric lines. Lineman work in the 9<sup>th</sup> most dangerous job in the United States\*, but DCEC linemen and the staff that support them make it the safest job they possibly can.



\*<http://jobs.aol.com/articles/2012/09/24/americas-10-most-dangerous-jobs/>

## Co-op Connections Corner



The following local businesses have signed up to support DCEC's Co-op Connections Card program. Keep checking upcoming newsletters as well as online at [www.dce.coop](http://www.dce.coop) for more local business discount additions. If you know of a local business that would like to participate please have them give us a call!

- ⇒ **Midtown Grill Restaurant & Bar**, Delhi - free carafe of wine or soda with purchase of 2 entrees
- ⇒ **Sal's Traditional Meat Center**, Bloomville - 5% off meat purchase
- ⇒ **Jennaluminescence**, Delhi - 20% off scarf purchase **Online only** at [www.jennaluminescence.com](http://www.jennaluminescence.com)
- ⇒ **Curtis Lumber**, Delhi - \$2.00 off a gallon of paint or stain (unlimited gallons)
- ⇒ **Skippy's Flea Market**, Hamden - 15% off of Skippy's items

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Director.....Rusty Pick  
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