

Powering Our Rural Communities

DCEC Receives Funds for Smart Grid Demonstration



DCEC Lineman Joe Dibble

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced that it has awarded a “Smart Grid” Demonstration grant to a collaboration of rural electric cooperatives which includes the Delaware County Electric Cooperative Inc. (DCEC). The \$33.9 million grant was awarded to the Cooperative Research Network (CRN),

a technical collaboration group of co-ops, for the implementation of “smart grid” technologies. This technology will allow utilities to better understand and manage consumer loads while providing information to consumer-members for them to make smarter decisions on their usage. DCEC was one of 17 electric co-ops included in the award.

“We are very honored to have received this vote of confidence from the federal government”, said Paul DeAndrea, DCEC Engineering Manager. “Over the next few months we will be working on how best to utilize these funds to serve our members.” DCEC has long been a leader in smart grid technology by having installed advanced “automated meters” for over 10 years. This technology has allowed DCEC to remotely collect consumer meter data for billing purposes and to detect and respond to consumer outages and other system issues to maximize reliability of service.

Planning efforts by DCEC staff for this project will kick off in early 2010 and continue through the year.

DCEC Makes Capital Credit Distribution



DCEC CEO Greg Starheim presents capital credit check to David Clark, CEO of FrieslandCampina DOMO (See Related Article on Page 2)

On December 17, 2009, DCEC paid out approximately \$200,000 of capital credit funds to its membership. Consistent with cooperative principals, members equity is returned over time based on the financial condition of the organization. DCEC members-consumers who received power from the co-op in 1987 received capital credits either as a credit on their December electric bill or as a check payment.

Capital credits represent the investment that members make in their cooperative. Each time a member pays their electric bill, the funds are used to pay expenses incurred by DCEC to serve electricity to its members. Any margin realized by the cooperative at the end of the year is allocated to members based on their kWh usage and reflects their ownership interest in the cooperative. When the financial condition of DCEC allows, the Board authorizes capital credits to be paid out to members based on the year that they were realized.

“It’s always nice to distribute capital credits to the members”, said DCEC Director and Board Treasurer Steve Oles, “especially at a time when people need it the most.”

The last general retirement of capital credits occurred in December 2007.

DCEC Collects Food for Local Food Bank

Once again this year, DCEC collected non-perishable items at the office throughout the beginning of the holiday season to donate to the local food bank.

Food was donated by members, employees and business partners and was delivered to Delaware Opportunities in Hamden for disbursement to needy area residents. “They are always so happy to have businesses and people in the local area donate to help out those less fortunate, especially during the holidays”, said Millie Faulkner, DCEC Finance Manager and organizer of the food drive. “We are pleased to be of help.”

DCEC would like to thank everyone that contributed to this donation.



DCEC CFO, Millie Faulkner presents food to Linda Vause of Delaware Opportunities

DCEC Member Highlight : FrieslandCampina-DOMO



Did you know that one of DCEC’s largest electric loads is a company known as FrieslandCampina??? While not a very well-known name in upstate New York, Friesland-Campina has its roots in the dairy industry and, up to recently, has been operating in Delhi as DMV International.

Like DCEC, FrieslandCampina is a cooperative, in fact, one of the largest cooperatives in the world! With roots dating back to 1870, the company is owned today by over 16,000 member dairy farmers. Organized to collect, process and market milk products, the company has grown into a global company with over 12,000 employees, operations in 6 continents and with annual sales exceeding 9 billion Euros (~\$13B).

“We are extremely proud to be serving FrieslandCampina”, says Greg Starheim, DCEC CEO/General. “It’s especially nice knowing that we share the same cooperative business values.”

FrieslandCampina’s Domo Division located just south of the Village of Delhi on Route 10 is a major producer of enzymatically digested proteins serving the infant, medical, and pharmaceutical industries. “We’re pleased to be located in Delaware County and to receive electric service from DCEC”, said David Clark, Director of Americas. “This is a vital plant for us and we greatly depend on DCEC to provide us with reliable, affordable electric service.” FrieslandCampina employs approximately 100 individuals at their Delhi location.

DCEC Director Receives Certification Credentials

As directors serving on the DCEC Board, individuals need to fully understand the vital role they play in providing governance to the cooperative and in serving the membership. In addition to understanding their role and responsibilities, the Directors must maintain a high level of knowledge and skills relating to the today’s complex electric utility industry. As part of this effort, DCEC directors are encouraged to participate in the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Program offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), a program specifically designed to address the learning needs of electric cooperative directors.



DCEC Director Hartley Russell

Recently, DCEC Director Hartley Russell completed this CCD certification making him the fifth DCEC director to have achieved that milestone. Hartley, a life-long dairy farmer and resident of Walton represents District #7 which includes the town of Hamden, Franklin and Walton.

As part of the CCD program, directors must complete a series of five courses that focus on effective board governance, financial decision-making, strategic planning, and current and emerging issues. The CCD prepares directors to become effectively engaged in their role as an elected fiduciary serving on behalf of their membership. Upon completion of all five CCD courses, directors are awarded the *Credentialed Cooperative Director* Certificate by NRECA.

Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Courses



“I am pleased to have completed the CCD certification.” said Hartley. “It is an honor to serve on the DCEC Board and this training has provided me a much stronger understanding and background for serving the members.”



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Please call or stop by the DCEC office for more information.

11th Grade Student Wanted for Legislative Conference



DCEC once again announces an exciting opportunity for 11th-grade students. Annually, DCEC sponsors a “Legislative Youth Delegate”. If selected, the student would travel to Washington D.C. to meet with our nation’s political leaders and learn about our Nation’s legislative process. This year the tour will take place from Sunday, May 2, 2010 to Wednesday, May 5, 2010.

The student-delegate representing DCEC will attend with other New York State rural electric cooperative student-delegates. Together, rural co-op representatives from the 900+ co-ops across the U.S. will be in Washington for meetings with our Congressional Representatives and Senators on Capital Hill. The student will also have the opportunity to experience government first-hand by visiting the nation’s capitol. Time will also be reserved for a visit to some of the sites and cultural events in Washington. This opportunity is an “all-expense-paid” trip, except for general spending money that the student may elect to spend on souvenirs and incidentals.

To be considered, the student must be in their junior year, be a son/daughter or have a guardian that is a DCEC member, have demonstrated strong academic and involvement in extracurricular activities, and have a minimum “B” GPA. Interested students must submit a completed application to the DCEC office in Delhi, NY by March 5, 2010. For more information contact or visit your school guidance counselor, or please contact Tara Rifenburg at the DCEC office @ (607) 746-9281.

Erica Howard of Sidney Central School was chosen as DCEC’s 2009 Youth Delegate and then subsequently chosen to represent NYS at the upcoming 2010 NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association) Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

Erica will be given the chance to meet other student delegates from each of the 50 states as well as other rural electric cooperatives from throughout the nation. She will also have the honor of carrying the NYS flag at the opening general session.



2009 DCEC & NYS Youth Delegate
Erica Howard with Congressman
Maurice Hinchey

A Few Ideas on How to Save on Energy Costs

Below are a few minor lifestyle adjustments that can help drive your energy costs lower:

- Unplugging your TV, DVD player and microwave ovens when not in use can lower electricity costs by about 3%. This is because these and other devices actually consume “phantom” energy even when you are not using them.
- Adjusting your thermostat just three degrees lower in the winter and three degrees higher in the summer reduces your energy demand by almost 10% per day. When your home is unoccupied you should adjust your thermostat.
- Switching to low-flow showerheads can save as much as \$265 per year on water bills and low-flow toilets can save \$90.
- Purchasing Energy Star certified appliances will not only save money via increased efficiency, but may also qualify you for state rebates that could reach \$200 per appliance.

Simply by implementing a few of these ideas, you will be able to keep warm and know that you are doing yourself, your family, your environment—and your wallet a great service!



Electricity...A Vital Form of Energy

Electricity is the flow of electrons through a conductor and is a basic part of nature. Often referred to as a “secondary” form of energy it is generally produced from the conversion of chemical and mechanical energy sources.

Electrical energy is produced during the burning of fossil fuels (such as coal and natural gas) which power large turbines that mechanically drive electrical generators. Other generators are directly driven from turbines using water or wind energy. The energy sources we use to make electricity can be renewable or non-renewable, but electricity itself is neither.



DCEC Office Closing Reminder:

DCEC’s office will be closed on Monday, February 15, 2009 for President’s Day.

Operations Update

Line Reconstruction & Pole Replacements:

DCEC crews will be working on Parker Schoolhouse Road in the Towns of Davenport and Harpersfield, Charlotte Creek Road, Dehning Road and Stewart Road in the Town of Davenport. Each of these projects will entail the replacement of 70 year old poles and wires with like-size poles and a larger-conductor wire. Completion of these projects is expected in the Spring of 2010.

Right of Way clearing (ROW):

DCEC ROW crews will be working on Covert Hollow Road, Feak Hollow Road, and Crystal Brook Road in the Town of Hamden, and Bennett Hollow and Snake Hill Road in the Town of Franklin. Trees and brush will be cut and trimmed from under our electric lines and will meet our eight year clearing cycle plan. Completion of work in these areas is expected in the spring of 2010.



Meet The DCEC Employees! This Month: Doug Rosa

Line Foreman Doug Rosa joined DCEC as a lineman 20 years ago and still likes his job. "I like the people I work with. They're a great bunch of guys," he says. "I enjoy the outdoors and serving the members the way we do."

The job is challenging, however. "We've worked quite a lot of storms. It's a dangerous job," he says. "That keeps it kind of exciting-keeps you on your toes." He says DCEC crews have worked through hurricanes, ice storms and major snow storms, and have sometimes had to work for over 24 hours at a time. "It's always the worst weather when we have to go out," he says. "When conditions are the worst, that's generally when we get the call to go out to restore power to members."

Doug, a South Kortright Central School graduate, lives in Delhi with his wife, Mary, and daughters Haley, 18 and Brandy, 13. "I've enjoyed watching those girls grow up over the years," he says. In his spare time, he enjoys playing basketball and deer hunting.



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!**

*Congratulations to our latest winner!
The Rheel Family*

Statement of Non-Discrimination

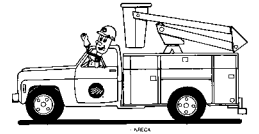
Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc., has filed with the Federal Government a Compliance Assurance in which it assures the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, that it will comply with all requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Age of Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Rules and Regulations of the Department of Agriculture issued thereunder, to the end that no person in the United States shall on the ground of race, color, national origin, handicap, or age be excluded from participation and be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the conduct of its program and the operation of its facilities.

Under this Assurance, this organization is committed not to discriminate against any person on the grounds of race, color or national origin in its policies and practices relating to treatment of beneficiaries and participants in any meeting of beneficiaries and participants or the exercise of any rights of such beneficiaries and participants in the conduct of the operation of this organization.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is, Gregory J. Starheim, General Manager. Any person who believes himself or any specific class of individuals to be subjected by this organization to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Act and Rules, and Regulations issued thereunder may, by

himself or a representative, file with the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, or this organization, or all, a written complaint. Such complaint must be filed no later than 180 days after their alleged discrimination or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) extends the time for filing. Identity of complaints will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the Rules and Regulations.

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