



Powering Our Rural Communities

DCEC Helps SUNY Delhi With Student Training



DCEC installing utility poles on SUNY Delhi campus

SUNY Delhi students will soon have the opportunity to gain practical utility line experience thanks to the efforts of DCEC. On January 27, 2009, DCEC linemen Jim Bright and Mike Schafer visited the campus and installed four electric poles as part of a new learning laboratory being developed by the school. The facility will be used to give students of the Electrical Construction and Instrumentation Program an opportunity to get certified in utility line work practices.

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Legislative Youth Delegate Opportunity for 11th Graders



DCEC is looking for an 11th grade student for the 2009 Legislative Conference that is scheduled for May 3 — May 6, 2009.

This is an “all-expense-paid” trip for the selected student and an exciting opportunity to meet with our nation's political leaders and learn about our nation's legislative process.

For more information or an application please contact DCEC at (607) 746-9281 or your high school guidance counselor.

Read more about how to lower your energy bills 10-15% with a Free Winter Home Heating Tune-Up Kit.

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



DCEC Considers “Self Regulation”

Dating back to the 1930's when rural electric cooperative law was adopted by the NYS legislature, electric co-ops have been legally exempt from regulatory oversight from such agencies as the NYS Public Service Commission. The reason for this exemption is based on the principals of cooperative ownership (DCEC is owned by the members it serves), and the simple objective of delivering reliable electricity to its membership on a non-profit basis. Electric co-ops do not have the inherent “conflicts-of-interests” relating to creating profit (returns) for shareholders that exist with for-profit, investor-owned utilities like NYSEG and National Grid. For that reason, the vast majority of rural electric co-ops in the U.S. are “self-regulated” putting the key decisions of the governance of the co-op in the hands of the membership through their elected Board of Directors.

Over the last several years, the DCEC Board and management have been considering a possible change to the current way DCEC is regulated. Dating back to the 1960s, the NYS co-ops have been voluntarily regulated by the New York Power Au-

thority (NYPA) which historically has also been DCEC's exclusive wholesale power provider. On January 1, 2008, NYPA elected to terminate one of DCEC's long-term power contracts. This event, in addition to other reasons, have led the DCEC Board to conclude that membership would be better served if DCEC became “self regulated”. Consistent with cooperative principles, the DCEC membership will be given the opportunity to vote on this important decision at the 2009 Annual Meeting in September. Over the next few months, further information will be released to members providing additional details. In the meantime, members are encouraged to contact the DCEC office with any questions.

Mark Your Calendars!

DCEC Annual Meeting
Friday
September 11, 2009



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“This is part of the start of introducing our students to real-world work experiences,” explained Mark Schneider, SUNY Delhi Professor. “We look forward to DCEC coming back on-campus when the laboratory is complete to provide students insight into possible careers in line-work. Prior to joining SUNY Delhi, Mark served as Manager of Engineering & Technology for DCEC.

“We consider SUNY Delhi a community partner and are very pleased to be supporting the school on this,” explained Greg Starheim, DCEC CEO/General Manager. “In addition, we look forward to the program being a possible source for future employees.” In addition to being a local community partner, SUNY Delhi is also a member of DCEC with the co-op serving its golf course and President’s residence.

Landfill Gas Generator Begins Producing Electricity



DCEC lineman drilling holes for wells

DCEC’s Waste-to-Energy Project is now producing electricity! “We went live on December 4, 2008,” said Paul DeAndrea, DCEC Manager Engineering & Technology. “We are now exporting power from the facility.” DCEC is realizing value from the production of electrical energy and from the sale of environmental attributes generated from the destruction of methane gas.

The project is a product of years of development work by DCEC and the Delaware County Department of Public Works. A 20-cylinder, 1,000kw reciprocating engine gen-set makes use of the gas produced by decaying garbage at the Delaware County Solid Waste Facility in Walton. A system of wells and pipes in the landfill extract the gas which is piped to the generator, where it is burned to create electricity.

The engine has been on-line over 95 percent of the time since January 1, though production has been hindered by cold weather freeze ups of fuel and condensate drain lines. The project has demonstrated full output. In an effort to maximize the delivery of methane, more shallow gas wells were drilled in the landfill.

The project is DCEC’s first venture into electric generation. Historically, the cooperative has purchased wholesale electric power for distribution to its members. In addition to providing a locally-controlled source of electricity, the plant removes

methane, a potent greenhouse gas, from the atmosphere.

The \$2.5M project is financed through a grant from the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority as well through Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs).

DCEC Hydro Project Discussions Continue

Discussions between officials of DCEC and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) over DCEC’s interest in electric generation at four DEP reservoirs are continuing.

The Western Catskills Hydro Project, a DCEC initiative, proposes to install clean, renewable power plants at the Cannonsville, Pepacton, Gilboa and Neversink reservoirs. Both DCEC and New York City have filed competing applications with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for permits to build these plants.

“DCEC continues to have discussions with the City to resolve their concerns relative to hydro-electric facilities located at their reservoirs,” said Greg Starheim, DCEC CEO. He called the City’s filing of a competing application “disappointing,” but said he understands that city officials want to “protect their interests until an agreement can be reached with us.” He said FERC has agreed to defer action on both applications to give the parties an opportunity to reach a deal. The City has indicated a willingness to withdraw their application if an agreement can be reached with DCEC that satisfies their concerns. “We’re hopeful that an agreement can be reached in the near future which would allow us to proceed with development of the project and deliver clean energy to our members as soon as possible,” he said.



Schoharie Reservoir, Gilboa, NY

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The project would employ a “run of the river” design approach that would take advantage of the normal flow of water discharged from the reservoirs. The project would not impact water releases that are required under the City’s various agreements. DCEC’s proposed “siphon design” would include underwater intake structures that would connect to penstocks (pipes), that would deliver water to hydro generators located near the bottom of the dams. The project would not negatively impact the dams or the City’s water supply.

Starheim says the project has gained much political support. “DCEC is very appreciative of the support we’re receiving from our federal, state and local elected officials,” he said.

DCEC Employees Complete Training

The following DCEC employees recently completed training to improve their job skills to better serve our members:

- Millie VanHoesen** —————> Licensed Notary
CFO/Office Manager
- Wayne Marshfield** —————> Electrical Systems
Assistant General Manager Control Training
- Paul DeAndrea** —————>
Engineering & Technology Mngr.
- Frank Winkler** —————> Director
Board President Effectiveness
- Meg Hungerford** —————> Training
Director

NYPA to Increase Hydropower Rates



Niagara Falls

DCEC purchases a significant amount of its wholesale energy needs from the New York Power Authority (NYPA) to serve our members. A portion of the power comes from the Niagara Falls Hydro Facility under a long-term supply contract with the remaining power purchased from the New York Energy Market (NYISO). Recently, DCEC received notice from NYPA of their intent to significantly increase the rates they charge from the hydro power supply.

Beginning in May 2009, NYPA has proposed an 8.2% increase in power rates and another 3.9% in May 2010. This represents a significant increase to DCEC’s overall cost of electric service to our membership. Working with other NYS cooperatives and municipals that are also effected by this rate increase, expert consultants have been retained to review and evaluate these increases to ensure they are equitable to DCEC’s membership.

Increases such as this, along with unpredictable transmission delivery charges relating to the transportation of energy from Niagara Falls to DCEC substations, reinforce DCEC initiatives to develop local, low cost renewable sources of power for its membership.

Meet The Board!

This Month: Dave Hartwell

Dave Hartwell, DCEC Director for Gilboa and the portion of Jefferson east of NYS Route 10, has deep roots in the cooperative. He says he has been a DCEC member “all my life, all my father’s life and all my grandfather’s life.” He became a director in 1986, replacing Maurice Bellinger.



Hartwell says he enjoys the challenges of serving on the DCEC board. “We have a lot of interesting things going on,” he said, noting recent efforts to generate electricity with wind, water and landfill gas. “There’s just a lot of exciting stuff.” In addition to the challenges, he says he enjoys meeting and working with people. “I’ve enjoyed the contact with all the people that (his wife) Bev and I have met over the years. We’ve met a lot of nice folks.”

He says the business of running the cooperative has changed “tremendously” since CEO Greg Starheim came to DCEC. “It just seems like we’ve become more involved,” he said. “We’ve made giant strides from where we were.”

Looking ahead, Hartwell says generating clean energy is the biggest challenge facing DCEC. “We need to get away from the old type of fuels, the fossil fuels,” he said. “We’re doing super, exciting stuff right now. I look forward to being part of that, being part of the change.”

DCEC Welcomes New Employees



Betty Goodrich – General Clerk

Effective December 15, 2008 Betty joined the staff of DCEC as General Clerk. Betty will be a key member of DCEC office staff serving as receptionist and member services representative.

She will also assist DCEC members with bill payment, membership applications and other general administrative duties.

Betty holds an A.A.S. degree from Broome Community College in Paralegal Studies. She resides in Walton with her husband Chris and three children.



Scott Daniels – DCEC Intern

Effective December 15, 2008 Scott joined the staff of DCEC as an Engineering Intern from SUNY Delhi. Scott will be assisting in the operational procedures of the Delaware County Waste-to-Energy Project, as well as helping with the structure of outage reporting, and assisting DCEC in developing an Energy Efficiency Program.

Scott will graduate from SUNY Delhi in May with an A.A.S. degree in Electrical Construction & Instrumentation. He currently resides in Meridale.

Operations Update

DCEC crews will be working in the following areas for the next couple of months:

- ◆ Town of Jefferson— Clapper Hollow Rd, doing Line Construction.
- ◆ Town of Delhi— Maggie Hoag Rd., doing Line Construction
- ◆ Town of Jefferson/Gilboa— NYS Rte. 10 & east, doing ROW Clearing (KW Reese)

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!**



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“The real measure of your wealth is how much you’d be worth if you lost all your money.”

- Unknown-

“Quirky Quotes”



“There are three ways to get something done: Do it yourself, employ someone, or forbid your children to do it.”

- Monty Crane -

Community Calendar

Wellness Program AMBA Blood Screening Event

Date: Sat., May 2, 2009

Time: 6:30 AM—9:30 AM

Place: Delhi Fire Department
140 Delview Terrace
Delhi, NY 13753

**To make an appt. call:
1-800-234-8888.**

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