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CATSKILL HI-LINE

Newsletter — August 2026

From the desk of CEO John Gasstrom

August is always an important month for DCEC, with our Annual Meeting and member voting providing key opportunities for members to participate in the governance of their Cooperative. I want to thank everyone who took the time to vote through SmartHub or the web, and also those members who participated in our recent Q&A sessions.

This year, we held in-person sessions in Jefferson, Delhi, and Andes, making sure we provided at least one opportunity in each of our northern, central, and southern districts, along with a virtual/online Q&A option for members who preferred to participate remotely. We appreciate everyone who joined us and the thoughtful questions and discussion that came from those sessions.

Your participation matters. Voting gives members a direct voice in the governance of their Cooperative, and the questions we received during the Q&A sessions help us better understand what information is most useful as we explain proposed bylaw changes and other Cooperative business.

At the same time, the past month-plus has been a challenging one from a reliability standpoint. DCEC members have experienced an unusually high number of outages, many related to severe weather, high winds, trees, and branches, while some larger events have involved interruptions outside of DCEC's distribution system.

We know repeated outages are frustrating, particularly when some members have experienced more than one event in a relatively short period of time. Our employees have continued to work safely and diligently to restore service, and we appreciate the patience and understanding members have shown during this unusually active stretch.

These events also reinforce the importance of the work already underway to strengthen the Cooperative's system, including right-of-way maintenance, advanced metering and operational technology, workforce development, and other efforts aimed at building a more resilient and responsive electric grid.

We are also continuing to improve the way we communicate during outages so members receive useful, timely information while restoration work is underway. As a reminder, outages can be reported through our automated outage and payment line at 855-939-3672.

To help the automated system identify your account correctly, please make sure the phone number you are calling from is associated with your DCEC account. If your contact information has changed, updating it can help make the outage-reporting process smoother.

Thank you again for staying engaged with your Cooperative, whether through voting, participating in a Q&A session, or simply staying informed about the work DCEC is doing on behalf of its members.

Cooperatively Yours,

John Gasstrom

Powering Our Rural Communities

5 North Depot Street
PO Box 471
Delhi, NY 13753

AUTOMATED LINE (payments & outage reporting): **(855) 939-3672**

Office Phone: (607) 746-2341

Fax: (607) 746-7548

Restoring Service After the July 18th Storms :

The July 18 storms caused significant damage across our service area, leaving downed trees, broken poles, and damaged power lines in their path. These photos show some of the challenging conditions our crews encountered during restoration efforts.

In many areas, crews had to clear extensive tree damage before they could safely access and repair electrical equipment. Working in steep, wooded rights-of-way often made the restoration process more difficult and time-consuming.

We are grateful for the hard work and dedication of our line and right-of-way crews, who worked tirelessly to restore power as safely and quickly as possible.

We also appreciate the patience and understanding shown by our members throughout the outage.

As a reminder, always stay away from downed or low-hanging power lines and assume they are energized. Please do not approach utility crews or enter active work zones, even when damage is located on or near your property.

Your cooperation helps keep everyone safe!



Q & A SESSIONS

- ✓  **Monday, July 27th** 5:00pm – Jefferson Fire Station
- ✓  **Wednesday, Aug. 5th** 11:00am – DTC Open House (Delhi)
- ✓  **Thursday, August 6th** 3:00pm – Andes Hotel
-  **Monday, August 17th** 4:00pm – Virtual



82nd ANNUAL MEETING



TUESDAY, AUGUST 25TH

5:00pm – Annual Business Meeting

Virtual

AGENDA

- President's Welcome and Call to Order
- Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- CEO's Report
- Service Awards
- Director Election Results
- Bylaw Update Results
- Unfinished business/new business
- Wrap-up & Adjournment



Please register to attend any of the events or submit new business requests, by emailing AnnualMeeting@dce.coop or calling the office at 607-746-2341.

7 CAMPUS SAFETY TIPS



Every College Student Should Know

Relay these safety tips to your young adults who are about to hit campus for the first time or return for another year.

1. Do not overload electrical outlets, power strips or extension cords. Use power strips with an overcurrent protector.
2. Be aware of your surroundings, especially when listening to music or texting.
3. Unplug small appliances when not in use and all appliances when away for extended periods.
4. This tip still holds true: never walk alone at night.
5. Avoid using generic cubes or cords. They could overheat, shock or burn you.
6. Locate the emergency call buttons or phones across campus in case of an emergency.
7. Do not put your cell phone on or under your pillow or bedding. It could overheat or catch fire.



Safe Electricity.org®

Back-To-School Safety:



KNOW THE SIGNS

Safe Electricity.org®

Know the signals:

Yellow flashing lights:
bus is preparing to stop – slow down.

Red flashing lights + stop arm:
bus is loading/unloading – stop and wait until the bus moves again.

DCEC is Committed to Helping Members During Financial Hardships

DCEC encourages members currently struggling to meet their monthly payment obligation to contact the local agencies listed below for payment assistance.

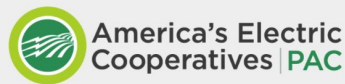
1. Contact DCEC's Billing Department to set up payment arrangements: 1-607-746-2341
2. Contact your local County Social Service program:
 - a. Delaware County 1-607-832-5300
 - b. Schoharie County: 1-518-295-8334
 - c. Otsego County: 1-607-547-4200
 - d. Delaware Opportunities provides assistance through certain agencies and can be reached at 1-607-746-1600
 - e. Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Hotline: 1-800-342-3009

DCEC can provide supporting documentation regarding your account to these agencies that can assist in expediting your application.

Contributions to the NRECA America's Electric Cooperatives PAC are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. Contributions to America's Electric Cooperatives PAC are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. You have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Federal law prohibits contributions from foreign nationals who lack permanent resident status. Any contribution guidelines presented are merely suggestions. You are free to contribute more or less than the suggested amounts, or not at all. NRECA will not favor or disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount contributed or a decision not to contribute.

DCEC Office Closures:

Monday, September 7, 2026 - Labor Day
Wednesday, November 11, 2026 - Veterans Day
November 26–27, 2026 - Thanksgiving
December 24–25, 2026 - Christmas
Thursday, December 31, 2026 - New Year's Eve



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|---|---|
| ☐ Bill Addition * | ☐ \$1/Month (\$12/year) |
| ☐ One-Time Contribution | ☐ \$2/Month (\$24/year) |
| ☐ \$ _____ | ☐ \$5/Month (\$60/year) |
| | ☐ \$10/Month (\$120/year) |

I affirm that my contribution has been made with personal funds:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

COOPERATIVE: _____

EMAIL: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

*Federal law requires the following information for contributions exceeding \$200:

EMPLOYER: _____

OCCUPATION: _____

- ☐ Also sign me up for Voices for Cooperative Power

*Monthly contributions will continue until you notify us to discontinue

