

Powering Our Rural Communities

NY State Electricity Price Spike



These past two months members of the Cooperative have seen extraordinarily high Power Cost Adjustments (PCAs) on their electric bills. The PCA is a mechanism to pass along to members the difference between “normal” power costs, which are built into the Cooperative’s regular rates, and the power costs the Cooperative experiences in a particular month. The recent high PCAs are a reflection of the very high prices that the Cooperative has been paying for wholesale electric energy in the NY State wholesale power market, operated by the NYISO. The NYISO reported that the average wholesale electricity price in NYS in January 2014 was 18.3 cents/kWh. Fortunately, the Cooperative was partially protected from these market prices by long term purchase agreements for hydro power from the New York Power Authority. Some customers of other NY utilities paid much higher prices. According to the February 21, 2014 edition of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle newspaper, customers of several municipal electric systems are paying one third more in January than they did in December. Residents of the Village of Hilton, NY paid three times what they usually do. According to the front page article in the Oneonta Daily Star on February 15, 2014, some businesses in Oneonta paid 250% higher rates this winter than they did in 2013.

The large spike in electricity prices in NY State this winter were the result of lower than usual temperatures and extremely high natural gas prices. Natural gas prices were driven higher by congestion in the limited natural gas pipeline network within NY State. Many electric generating plants burn natural gas as their fuel. The wholesale price for electricity in NY State is generally tied quite closely to natural gas prices.

Continued on Page 2...

DCEC Posting Outage Information on Facebook



DCEC is now posting outage information only to its new Facebook page. If you would like to know if there was an outage in your area or to get updates on outages please “Like” us on Facebook.

Formulary Rate to be Implemented



The Cooperative’s board of directors recognizes the need for a \$0.0021/kWh rate increase, which would first appear on members’ April bills if approved at the March 25, 2014 meeting of the board of directors. **A member information meeting will also be held on Tuesday March 25, 2014 at 7 pm at 39 Elm Street in Delhi, NY.** Members are invited to come ask questions and provide input to their elected board of directors as they contemplate this important decision.

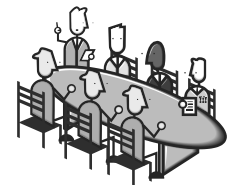
The Cooperative needs the \$0.0021/kWh rate increase in order to meet certain key financial ratios, which are guidelines set by the Rural Utility Service of the USDA and the Cooperative Finance Corporation. In addition to considering this rate increase the board has implemented certain cost saving measures including scaling back our construction work plan, implementing lower cost employee benefits, and deferring purchases of tools and equipment.

If implemented as planned, members’ April bills will look slightly different than they have in the past.

In the past members’ bills have had a zero value for “Formulary Rate Adj.” If implemented as planned, the “Formulary Rate Adj” row will include a rate of 0.0021.

Continued on Page 2...

Are You Interested in Serving on the DCEC Nominating Committee?



See page 3 for Details



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

Price Spike Continued from Page 1...

With the decreased residential heating demand for natural gas we expect to see in March, the cost of natural gas should return to more normal levels this month. We expect the price of wholesale electricity to follow suit in March, also returning to normal levels. For 8 of the 12 months in 2013, the PCA was a credit to member accounts due to lower than normal electricity prices. If we experience more typical weather and market conditions starting in March, the PCA should return to normal levels also.

Formulary Rate Continued from Page 1...

Current Bill Information	\$ Amount
Service Charge	17.50
Energy Charge 1851 KWH @ .101600	188.06
Power Cost Adj 1851 KWH @ .007830	14.49
Load Mgmt Credit	-4.00
Formulary Rate Adj 1851 KWH @ .000000	

In the example shown above, 1851 kWh multiplied by \$0.0021/kWh would result in an additional \$3.89 of cost to this member. For the typical household, the rate increase equates to \$1.70 per month, on average throughout the year.

“Having to raise electric rates at this time has been a very difficult decision for the board. We know the high energy demand from the winter's cold weather and the greatly increased cost associated with that demand has created a burden for all. With the support of all employees we have made significant savings in our day to day operational expenses. However, to provide our members with the reliability and value that continue to distinguish us from other energy options, this increase is necessary,” stated DCEC Board President, Frank Winkler.

What Is a Substation Transformer?



In previous issues of the Catskill Hi-Line, articles have been presented describing the application and function of both pole mounted distribution transformers and regulating transformers. There is another very important type of transformer used on the DCEC system to provide safe and reliable electrical energy delivery, the substation transformer. Substation transformers are much larger, physically, and weigh significantly more than distribution or regulating transformers. Due to their size and weight, substation transformers are mounted on concrete pad foundations at four of DCEC's substations where they may be secured, readily maintained and protected against physical and electrical damage. Substation transformers safely change or “transform” the high voltage of the electric transmission system to a lower voltage used to distribute power along the DCEC overhead lines. Inside their steel tanks, these substation transformers contain wire coil windings and magnetic friendly steel cores to function effectively and efficiently. Additionally, these transformers contain mineral oil that helps to cool and insulate the windings and cores. In addition to operating our energized substation transformers, DCEC also maintains suitably rated spare substation transformers at each substation location to help ensure reliable service to our members. DCEC substation transformers may provide electric service to as many as 1,500 member/customers from a single substation.

DCEC Board Districts and Directors

<u>Northern Region</u> Represented by: Ed “Rusty” Pick & Shawn Hartwell	<u>Central Region</u> Represented by: Paul Menke, Steve Oles & Meg Hungerford	<u>Southern Region</u> Represented by: Frank Winkler & Hartley Russell
Davenport	Bovina	Andes
Gilboa	Delhi	Bainbridge
Harpersfield	Franklin	Colchester
Jefferson	Hamden	Masonville
Maryland	Kortright	Middletown
Stamford	Meredith	Sidney
Summit		Tompkins
		Walton



Frank Winkler



Hartley Russell



Meg Hungerford



Steve Oles



Paul Menke



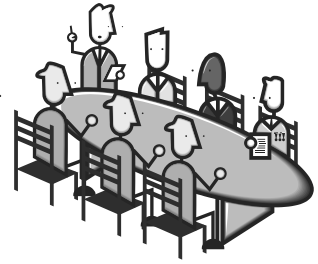
Shawn Hartwell



Rusty Pick

Nominating Committee Forming to Identify Director Candidates

Consistent with Cooperative Bylaws, a Nominating Committee is formed each spring for the purpose of identifying Cooperative members interested in serving on the DCEC Board of Directors. This committee is made up of members of the Cooperative who are interested in learning more about the governance structure of DCEC and working to identify qualified candidates to serve as directors of DCEC. The candidates that are nominated by this committee are included on the ballot for a membership vote at the Annual Meeting, which takes place each September.



The board takes their governance responsibilities very seriously. Over the last few years, they have worked hard in ensuring that our director nomination process is very transparent and fair.

If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact the DCEC office. In accordance with DCEC bylaws, the committee is comprised of between 5 and 11 members representing the geographic diversity of the DCEC service area. Members serving on the committee receive a modest stipend for their service. The committee typically meets 2-3 times from April through June in the evenings.

DCEC would like to thank the members who served on the 2013 Nominating Committee: Frank Eppich, Anthony Caruso, Christine Hauser, Thomas Courtenay-Clack, Art Reed, Harry Peterson, Stephen Hodge, Steven Mason, and Wesley Warren.

2014 Board of Director Nominations

As a democratic organization, Cooperative members vote each year to elect directors to represent them on the DCEC Board. Elections for director positions occur at the DCEC's Annual Meeting in September. DCEC currently has 7 directors representing three regions of the DCEC's service territory (see DCEC Board Regions chart on page 2). Directors serve 3-year terms. In accordance with the DCEC bylaws, a Nominating Committee considers members interested in serving on the board and nominates candidates for the election. If you are a full-time residential member of the Cooperative, at least 21 years old and are interested in being a candidate, or if you would like additional information, contact the DCEC office.

In accordance with DCEC bylaws, the Nominating Committee must prepare a list of candidates for membership consideration at least 60 days prior to the Cooperative's Annual Meeting. The 2014 Annual Meeting of the Members is scheduled to be held September 19, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.

Elections will occur at the 2014 Annual Meeting for the following regions which are currently served by:

Northern Region: Ed "Rusty" Pick —Towns of Davenport, Gilboa, Harpersfield, Jefferson, Maryland, Stamford & Summit.

Central Region: Paul Menke—Towns of Bovina, Delhi, Franklin, Hamden, Kortright and Meredith.

Southern Region: Frank Winkler—Towns of Andes, Bainbridge, Colchester, Masonville, Middletown, Sidney, Tompkins & Walton.

The Committee will meet from April through June at the DCEC office at 39 Elm Street, Delhi, for the purpose of identifying candidates for the above positions.

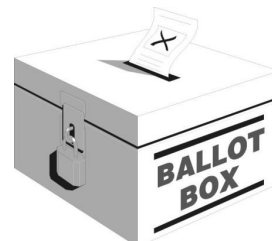
Nominations for directors are governed by Article 4 of the Bylaws. A director may be nominated either through:

1) The **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**. The Nominating

Committee meets to identify at least two candidates to run for each region up for election.

2) The second way is by **PETITION**. Any 15 or more members may petition the Cooperative to place a qualified member on the ballot. This must be done at least 45 days before the Annual Meeting.

Rules regulating director elections are outlined in DCEC's bylaws which are available on www.dce.coop. Voting for directors is covered by Article 3. Each member may cast one ballot for a nominee in each region. A husband and wife holding a joint membership are considered one member and will receive one ballot.



Herbicide Treatment for Vegetation Control



Specialty Herbicide

For the control of woody plants and broad leaf weeds on rights-of-way, industrial sites, non-crop areas, non-irrigation ditch banks, forests, and wildlife openings, including grazed areas on these sites.

Active Ingredient: triclopyr: 3,5, 6-trichloro-2-pyridinyloxyacetic acid, butoxyethyl ester 61.6%, **Inert Ingredients** 38.4%, **Acid**

Equivalent: triclopyr- 44.3% -41b/gal. Contains petroleum distillates

EPA Reg. No. 62719-40, EPA Est. 464-MI-1, Net Content 2.5 gal

Precautionary Statements: Keep Out of Reach of Children. Hazards to Humans and Domestic Animals

CAUTION

Harmful if Swallowed, Inhaled at Absorbed Through Skin.

Avoid contact with eyes, skin, or clothing. Avoid breathing mists or vapors. Avoid contamination of food. Wash thoroughly after handling. Remove and wash contaminated clothing before reuse.

FIRST AID

If on skin: Flush skin with plenty of water. Get medical attention if irritation persists.

If swallowed: Do not induce vomiting. Call a physician.

Physical or Chemical Hazards

Combustible. Do not use or store near heat or open flame. Do not cut or weld container.

Environmental Hazards

This pesticide is toxic to fish. Keep out of lakes, ponds or streams. Do not contaminate water when disposing of equipment wash waters.

Notice: Read the entire label. Use only according to label directions. **Before buying or using this product, read "Warranty Disclaimer" and "Limitation of Remedies" inside label booklet.**

In case of an emergency endangering life or property involving this product, call collect 517-636-4400.

Agricultural Chemical: Do not ship or store with food, feeds, drugs or clothing.

General Use Precautions

Apply this product only as specified on this label. Be sure that use of this product conforms to all applicable regulations. Before using any recommended tank mixtures read the directions and all use precautions on both labels.

Chemigation: Do not apply this product through any type of irrigation system.

During the year 2014 DCEC will again be clearing trees and brush from our primary distribution lines in Delaware and Schoharie counties. Once the trees have been cut, a ready-to-use herbicide known as Garlon -4 will be applied to the stump to prevent undesirable future sprouting. DCEC is licensed and registered with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to purchase, store and apply this herbicide. If you would like more information or would like to discuss the herbicide, please feel free to contact Wayne Marshfield at 607-746-9284.

Do not apply Garlon 4 directly to or otherwise permit it to come into direct contact with grapes, tobacco, vegetable crops, flowers or other desirable broadleaf plants and do not permit spray mists containing it to drift onto them.

Avoid Injurious Spray Drift

Applications should be made only when there is little or no hazard from spray drift. Very small quantities of spray, which may not be visible, may seriously injure susceptible plants. Do not spray when wind is blowing toward susceptible crops or ornamental plants near enough to be injured. It is suggested that a continuous smoke column at or near the spray site or a smoke generator on the spray equipment be used to detect air movement, lapse conditions or temperature inversions (stable air). If the smoke layers or indicates a potential of hazardous spray drift, do not spray.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

It is a violation of Federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling. Read all Directions for Use carefully before applying. Do not use for manufacturing or formulating.

General Information

Garlon4 herbicide is recommended for the control of unwanted woody plants and annual broadleaf weeds in forests, and on non-crop areas including industrial manufacturing and storage sites, rights-of-way such as electrical power lines, communication lines, pipelines, roadsides and railroads, fence rows, non-irrigation ditch banks and around farm buildings.

Use on these sites may include application to grazed areas as well as establishment and maintenance of wildlife openings.

Grazing and Haying Restrictions

Grazing or harvesting green forage;

1) Lactating dairy animals 2 quarts/acre or less: Do not graze or harvest green forage from treated area for 14 days after treatment. Greater than 2 quarts to 6 quarts/acre. Do not graze or harvest green forage until next growing season.

2) Other Livestock: 2 quarts/acre or less: No grazing restrictions. Greater than 2 quarts to 6 quarts/acre: Do not graze or harvest green forage from treated area for 14 days after treatment.

Note: If less than 25% of a grazed area is treated, there is no grazing restriction.

Haying (harvesting of dried forage):

1) Lactating dairy animals: Do not harvest hay until the next growing season.

2) Other livestock: 2 quarts/acre or less: Do not harvest hay for 7 days after treatment. Greater than 2 quarts to 4 quarts/acre; Do not harvest hay for 14 days after treatment.

Greater than 4 quarts/acre: Do not harvest hay until next growing season.

Slaughter Restrictions:

Withdraw livestock from grazing treated grass or consumption of treated hay at least 3 days before slaughter. This restriction applies to grazing during the season following treatment or hay harvested during the season following treatment.

Warranty Disclaimer

DowElanco warrants that this product conforms to the chemical description on the label and is reasonably fit for the purposes stated on the label when used in strict accordance with the directions, subject to the inherent risks set forth below. DOWELANCO MAKES NO OTHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR ANY OTHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTY.

Inherent Risks of Use

It is impossible to eliminate all risks associated with use of this product. Plant injury, lack of performance, or other unintended consequences may result because of such factors as use of the product contrary to label instructions (including conditions noted on the label, such as unfavorable temperature, soil conditions, etc.), abnormal conditions (such as excessive rainfall, drought, tornadoes, hurricanes), presence of other materials, the manner of application, or other factors, all of which are beyond the control of DowElanco or the seller. All such risks shall be assumed by Buyer.

Limitation of Remedies

The exclusive remedy for losses or damages resulting from this product (including claims based on contract, negligence, strict liability, or other legal theories), shall be limited to, at DowElanco's election, one of the following:

1. Refund of purchase price paid by buyer or user for product bought, or
2. Replacement of amount of product used.

DowElanco shall not be liable for losses or damages resulting from handling or use of this product unless DowElanco is promptly notified of such loss or damage in writing. In no case shall DowElanco be liable for consequential or incidental damages or losses. The terms of the "Warranty Disclaimer" above and this "Limitation of Remedies" cannot be varied by any written or verbal statements or agreements. No employee or sales agent of DowElanco or the seller is authorized to vary or exceed the terms of the "Warranty Disclaimer" or this "Limitation of Remedies" in any manner.

**Trademark of DowElanco
DowElanco, Indianapolis, IN 46268
LABEL CODE 113-12-003 DATE CODE 392
EPA APPROVAL 02/26/92 & 10/22/91
REPLACES 113-12-002*

Space Heaters and Energy Costs



Electric space heaters such as the EdenPure model have been a popular choice among members who wish to control their heating costs this winter. There is a way that space heaters can assist our members who are struggling with high home heating costs. Members may turn their whole house thermostat down to a lower temperature to reduce their overall heating cost. Then a space heater can be used to keep a small space at a higher, more comfortable temperature. For example, a space heater in the family room can keep family members at a comfortable temperature while the remainder of the house is set at a lower, more economical temperature.

A space heater works a lot like a toaster oven by using resistance wire to generate heat. All electric heat is nearly 100% efficient, meaning the energy that goes into an electric heater will come out as heat with no energy wasted. However, no energy is free and a typical space heater can eat up as much electricity as 20 standard 75-Watt bulbs.

The best long term solution to high heating costs is to seal up your house to guard against heat loss through gaps and cracks around foundations, doors, windows, and into the attic. If you are considering using space heaters as part of the solution to your home heating costs, please be aware that the space heater will increase your electric bill. For more information on how much your electric space heaters may be costing you on your monthly electric bill please visit www.dce.coop for a "How Much Does My Space Heater Cost Me?" calculator.

Community Calendar



19th Annual Maple Open House

Shaver Hill Farm
Harpersfield, NY
March 22-23 & March 29-30
9:00 am—4:00 pm

5th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

Saturday, March 22
Main Street Delhi
Parade starts at noon



DCEC Promotes Little & Stewart



DCEC employee, Mark Stewart has been promoted to Apprentice Lineman. Mark started working at the Cooperative in 2010 on the tree crew as a Saw Operator 2.



DCEC Lineman, Steve Little has been promoted to 1st Class Lineman. Steve started working at the Cooperative in 2005 as a Saw Operator 1 on the tree crew.

Make Sure to Keep an Updated Address With the Cooperative

DCEC would like members to understand the importance of keeping an updated address on file with the Cooperative if you are to ever move and no longer receive service from us.



In the event that you are no longer an active member with DCEC and capital credits are due to you, a check will be sent to the most recent address we have on file.

DCEC Needs to Update Member Contact Information

The following is a listing of DCEC members whose capital credit checks have been returned to DCEC by the USPS due to an insufficient or outdated address. Please review the list and if you have any information that will be helpful to us in locating these members or relatives, please contact the DCEC office at (607) 746-2341 or email us at billing@dce.coop. Thank you for your assistance.

Barbara Augstein
Peter D. Baldauf
Charles H. Barlow
Mindy Beecher
Harold J. Bridger
Faith Castaneda
Jennifer Clark
Tina Cole
Mary E. Cooper
Kerri Cornell-Roth
Alex Coufos
Gary David
Victoria Decker

Anthony DePasquale
Seth Dibble
Demian Digges
Hope Falconio
William T. Fisher
Fritz Gue
Kristina Hamalainen
Roger Harris
Scott Johnston
J Kelsey
Andrew Kreger
Tina LaTour

Joseph LoMonaco
Brian Madden
Gerald McDonough
Jeffrey McQuinn
Garry Moore
Loren Morrow
Robert Morton
Richard Naslonski
Erika Newman
Paul Newsome
Marc Northrop
Eleanor Ockenfels
William Pagan

Eric Pedersen
Frederick J. Price
Linda Pross
Phelicia Quigley
Richard I. Rolland
Frank Sacco (deceased)
Pamela Sargent
Patricia Schneider-Doig
Norma Seward
Evelyn C. Smith
Robert P. Socci
David Spry

Conard Spry
Ronald W. Spurrier
William S. Sremek
Frank Tavoraro
Ronald J. Weiss
Leon Whitehill
Hannah G. Williams
South Jefferson
Baptist Church



Operations Update

Line Reconstruction:

DCEC line crews will be rebuilding existing electric lines on Monroe Road in the Town of Meredith as well as on Reuben Todd Road in the Town of Delhi.



Right of Way (ROW) Clearing:

DCEC contractor Asplundh Tree Service will be clearing existing right-of-ways in the Towns of Bovina and Kortright. Notice will be sent to members who will be affected by this contract work.

DCEC ROW crews will continue clearing on Sutherland, Peakes Brook, Frank Hafele, Bell Hill, Ryder Hill and Dick Mason Roads in the Town of Delhi.

DCEC Hires New Right of Way Contractor—Asplundh

The Asplundh Tree Expert Company has been selected to assist the Cooperative with our regular right of way clearing project for 2014. Asplundh will begin working in the towns of Kortright and Bovina starting at the end of April. Asplundh employees will all be issued DCEC identification cards. If someone comes to your property representing the Cooperative or Asplundh, they will show you their DCEC-issued identification upon request.

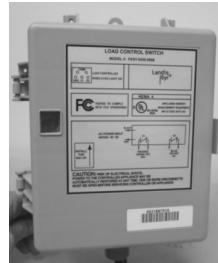


Sign Up for DCEC's Load Control Program and Get \$4.00 Taken Off your Bill Every Month!



Do you have at least a 30 gallon electric hot water heater?

Do you use at least 350 kWh's per month?



If your answer was "YES" to both of those questions and you would like to participate in DCEC's Load Management Program, which helps all DCEC members save money, please give us a call at (607) 746-9284!

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www.dce.coop

Your local area dealer for electric

Providing our rural members with:

- ⚡ Low-cost Electricity
- ⚡ High System Reliability
- ⚡ Community/Member Service

Warranted for **LIFE**
Please call for availability

Manage your account 24/7 by signing up for "MyAccount" at www.dce.coop OR have your payment automatically deducted from your bank account or credit card by signing up for EFT (electronic funds transfer).

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!**

Mark Your Calendars!

**DCEC Annual Meeting
Friday
September 19, 2014**

More information to come in upcoming newsletters

KO 2-52-4C

Buyer's Market

If you would like to place an ad in our Buyers Market please call our office at (607) 746-2341

For Sale:
Davenport, NY
Over 40 acres of land
Electric, phone line,
well-120 gal per minute, septic
Please call (607) 435-3573

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 promote action and discussion among 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.

Board of Directors

President.....Frank Winkler	Director.....Paul Menke
Vice President.....Hartley Russell	Director.....Meg Hungerford
Secretary.....Rusty Pick	CEO/General Manager.....Mark Schneider
Treasurer.....Stephen Oles	Asst. General Manager.....Wayne Marshfield
Director.....Ernie Bartz	
Director.....Shawn Hartwell	

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