

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!

Outage Effects DCEC Members



Trees bent under the weight of heavy snow

Very early in the morning on October 28th, heavy snow began falling throughout the DCEC service territory. By 5:00 am, DCEC dispatchers began to receive a flood of calls from members reporting wide-spread power

outages. By mid-morning, over 25% of DCEC members were without power.

“This was a very difficult outage for us”, said DCEC Operations Manager & Assistant General Manager Wayne Marshfield. “What made the outage especially difficult for us was that the weather conditions just kept up which caused the damage to continue. As we restored power to some of our members, more outages would come in, often in the same locations which we just restored.”

On Tuesday morning, DCEC requested assistance from neighboring electric cooperatives and contractors. Crews from the Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative (Bath, NY) and contractor KW Reese assisted in the restoration efforts that continued into Friday night.

“Heavy snow and ice is a real problem”, said DCEC Line Foreman Doug Rosa. Under the weight of snow and ice, trees break or sag into power lines. This causes protective devices to automatically shut off sections of line for public safety and protection of the DCEC power system. “In addition to trees, snow and ice can also build up on our lines causing them to sag and then short out.”

The heavy snow conditions make it difficult for line crews to patrol and fix down power lines. To investigate the location of outages, DCEC linemen often need to walk long distances through deep snow with chainsaws and other heavy equipment to identify problem areas and to fix trouble-spots in remote locations.

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Hydro Project and Waste-to-Energy Project Update



Delaware County Waste-to-Energy Project

DCEC continues to work on projects to ensure that the future needs of our members are met. One project is nearing completion with the other in early development.

Construction of the Delaware County Waste-to-Energy Project is nearly complete and is scheduled to startup in November. Methane gas, produced by decaying garbage at the Delaware County Solid Waste Facility in Walton, will be used to fuel an engine-generator to produce electricity for DCEC members.

Work also continues on the Western Catskills Hydro Project, which would harness the energy of four area reservoirs to generate electricity. Officials of New York City, which own the reservoirs, have been meeting with DCEC leaders since early 2007. “They expressed an interest in our proposal,” says DCEC CEO General Manager Greg Starheim. In May of 2008 DCEC submitted an application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for right to develop the project.

New York City has filed a competing application in September of 2008. “This action significantly complicates and will most certainly delay the project,” Starheim says. “We are hopeful that upcoming meetings with NYC will result in a “settlement agreement” with them withdrawing their application with FERC and supporting the DCEC application.”

The Western Catskills Hydro Project would utilize water released from the Pepacton, Cannonsville, Neversink and Gilboa reservoirs to turn generators that would produce electricity. FERC officials will choose between the two competing applications if an agreement is not reached.

Outage Continued from Page 1...

Once trouble spots are identified, linemen need to climb poles, often in inclement weather, to work at elevated conditions to fix the issue. During extended day outages, fatigue and risk-of-injury to line staff is a major concern especially when working long-hours to restore power to members as soon as possible. During this outage unfortunately, one of DCEC's crew sustained a minor injury.

At peak times on Thursday morning, over 3,300 members were without power amounting to almost 2/3 of total membership. Throughout the outage, DCEC worked with emergency services organization establishing shelters for members in need of facilities including locations at Charlotte Valley Central School, Gilboa-Conesville Central School and the Assembly-of-God Church in Delhi. All members were restored by mid-night on Friday night.

DCEC is very aware of the inconvenience and issues that power outages cause our members. On behalf of our entire staff, we assure our members of our commitment to restore power as soon as possible during such events and in providing the highest-quality of service we can.

Legislative Corner

DCEC congratulates Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand, NYS Senators John Bonacic and Jim Seward, as well as Assemblymen Clifford Crouch and Peter Lopez on their re-election. We would also like to congratulate Paul Tonko on his election to serve the 21st Congressional District replacing Mike McNulty who elected not to run for an additional term. These public servants have been important partners in DCEC's efforts to deliver reliable, low-cost energy to our members.



DCEC Employee Works to Bring Electricity to Rural Africa



From right to left: DCEC employee Alain Harelimana, Minister Albert Butare, Naceur Hammami, Eva Paul, staff member of Minister of Energy, Laban Kariuki, & Eric Gibbs of NRECA

Alain Harelimana, Financial Analyst of DCEC and native of the east African nation of Rwanda, recently returned there in October 2008 with officials of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International. They met with government officials to explore the possibility of cooperation in designing and implementing a rural electrification program.

Harelimana came to the United States in 1996 and attended Bainbridge-Guilford high school and Hartwick College before joining DCEC in 2005. His own experiences in Rwanda led to his interest in the project. He grew up without access to electricity or running water and his family home is still not electrified. Electricity was promised, but never delivered.

Working with DCEC gave Harelimana ideas about how to help people in his native land. "As I learned about the electric cooperatives' role in transforming the rural areas of the United States decades ago, I began dreaming of introducing the same concept in

Rwanda, in the hopes that my home community might also benefit someday," he said. Having seen the 1994 devastation of his country (when over 800,000 Rwandans were killed in a period of 100 days during the war and genocide), and knowing that only approximately five percent of the population is currently served by electricity, Harelimana feels an obligation to help. His ideas gained momentum when DCEC CEO Greg Starheim provided information about NRECA's International Programs Division. Alain volunteered his time under the NRECA International Foundation (the charitable arm of NRECA) and began talking with officials of the Rwandan Ministry of Infrastructure.

Harelimana accompanied Eric Gibbs, Senior Program Manager at NRECA International and Laban Kariuki, an NRECA Consultant, to Rwanda. The group met with Minister Albert Butare and members of his staff, as well as international funding agencies and U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda Stewart Symmington. "The government of Rwanda appears highly committed to increasing electricity access throughout the country," Gibbs said. Butare stated, "We value the work and experiences of NRECA and express an interest in working together, as soon as possible, to help Rwanda expand access to electricity in its rural areas."

"I have an opportunity that very few people from Rwanda have," Harelimana said. "I feel it is a privilege to try to help Rwanda move from its past and into a more positive future of healing and progress."

Energy Efficiency Tips For Winter

The following are some low-cost and no-cost energy saving tips to help save you some money this winter:

- ◆ Unplug electronics when not in use.
- ◆ Keep refrigerator coils clear of obstacles and dirt.
- ◆ Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.
- ◆ Wash only full loads of dishes. Air dry only.
- ◆ Install low-flow shower heads and fix leaky faucets.
- ◆ Purchase a programmable thermostat.
- ◆ Set your heat no higher than 68 degrees.
- ◆ Set your water heater between 110 and 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ◆ Do not block radiators.
- ◆ Keep shades open during the day and closed in the evening.
- ◆ Close fireplace dampers when not in use and install tempered glass doors.
- ◆ Have your heating system serviced once a year.
- ◆ Plug home leaks: install weather-stripping and caulk all doors and windows, and install gaskets behind all outlet covers. For less than \$20 in materials, you can save 20% of your heating bill!

CO 4-77-10A

And remember...make sure to decorate safely for the holidays!



Upcoming Holiday Parades

With the arrival of the holidays the following towns will be having their annual parades:

- ◆ **Walton, NY — Saturday, November 29th at 6:00 pm**
- ◆ **Oneonta, NY— Saturday November 22nd at 10:00 am**
- ◆ **Delhi, NY — Saturday, December 6th at 11:00 am**



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Please Help DCEC In A Food Collection For The Holidays

DCEC will be collecting non-perishable food to donate to the local food bank in your community. There will be a drop off box in the main office at 39 Elm Street in Delhi. Food can be donated between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Mon. through Fri., Nov. 12th through Dec. 17th. Please help deliver some cheer this holiday season.



This Month: Frank Winkler

Meet The Board!

Frank Winkler, president of the DCEC Board of Directors, has been a member of the cooperative since 1988, when he returned to the Andes farm that has been in his family's since 1943. Now retired after a 32-year career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), he recently began his second full term as a director.



Winkler was appointed by the Board in 2005 to represent District #9 which includes Andes, Middletown and Colchester to complete the remaining term of long-time director Stanley Reed who resigned for personal reasons. "I always had an interest in DCEC," Winkler said. "I've been impressed with the cooperative and the culture of dedication to the members." He calls the recent work of the cooperative "progressive," and says, "I like the direction the co-op is going." He said recent moves toward renewable energy fit in nicely with his work experience at NRCS and that he likes the concept of developing local energy options.

Winkler says that keeping pace with the energy needs of DCEC members is always a challenge. "It's very important that we develop various power supply alternatives," he said. "But it is essential to our future if we are going to keep electric rates as low as possible for our members." He cited the proposed Western Catskills Hydro Project as an example. "We need to be able to sit down with New York City to get the job done."

While global energy needs increase and governments move to address climate change, Winkler says DCEC has made the right moves to keep pace. "We are positioning ourselves quite well," he said.

He says retirement has given him the freedom to concentrate on DCEC's needs. "I'm able to dedicate extra time to work with the co-op," he said. "Especially as president, it can be demanding."

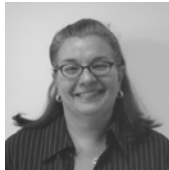
DCEC Welcomes New Employees



Paul DeAndrea – Manager, Engineering & Technology

Paul joins the staff of DCEC effective December 1, 2008 as Manager, Engineering & Technology. In this role, Paul will be responsible for providing engineering analysis and support of DCEC’s electrical system and oversight of DCEC’s IT systems. In addition, Paul will provide leadership of special project initiatives, including the Delaware County Waste-to-Energy Project.

Paul, a licensed NYS Professional Engineer, brings a wealth of experience and qualifications to DCEC. He has had a long and distinguished career with NYSEG in a variety of roles, the latest being Regional Manager, Substation Operations. He holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from WPI and a M.S. in Electrical Engineering from Kansas State University. He and his wife, Linda, reside in Franklin, NY.



Helene Sollett – General Clerk

Effective November 3, 2008 Helene joins the staff of DCEC as General Clerk. In this role, Helene will be a key member of DCEC office staff serving as receptionist and member services representative. In this role, Helene will assist DCEC members with bill payment, membership applications and other general administrative duties.

Helene joins DCEC after a long career with Verizon as an Administrative Assistant. Several years ago, Helene and her husband, Rob, re-located upstate and currently reside in Delhi. In addition to her professional experience, Helene holds a B.A. from Brooklyn College and an EMBA from Wagner College.



Operations Update

TOWN	ROAD	JOB
Jefferson	Clapper Hollow	Line construction
Walton	Tower Mtn. area	ROW clearing
Walton	Palmer Hill Rd.	Pole change outs

DCEC Office Closing Reminder:

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

- * Thursday, November 27th, and
- * Friday, November 28th for Thanksgiving.
- * Thursday, December 25th for Christmas Day
- * Thursday, January 1st, 2009 for New Year’s Day



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!**



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.

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