

# NEWSLETTER – SWAN’S ISLAND ELECTRIC CO–OP

## MANAGER: JEFFREY ELLISON

Bonnie is able to work 12 hours per week. That is very helpful and we appreciate her effort.

The SIEC has hired a new auditor. He is James Wadman from Ellsworth.

Our Switching Station rebuild will be nearing completion soon. When it comes time to decommission the old station and connect the undersea cables to the new station, we will experience a planned power outage of approximately eight hours. We anticipate that the planned outage will occur on Thursday, Oct 16th and commence at 8 AM and last until 4 PM. We will be publicizing this planned outage widely on both islands and we'll also alert all to any changes.

We will have a very robust Switching Station for our marine cables to connect into, and there will be an island-wide emergency shut off (to include Frenchboro) located at the new Switching Station that can be turned off in an emergency.

We will soon be turning old bills (including unpaid Kents Oil bills over to our collection agency.

Please arrange a payment plan if you do not already have one in order to avoid a bad credit report score. If you are uncertain about your status on a past-due bill, please contact Karen Griffin in the office. Members who have arranged for payment plans on their past-due balances will not have their accounts forwarded to the collection agency. Those who have been ignoring our requests for payment for months and months need to act immediately to avoid the collection agency.

Emera (Bangor Hydro) is planning a rate increase of approximately 3% in October. Also, be expecting the Fall/Winter electric rate increase that happens every year. We are working on getting a level electric rate for the whole year to avoid the large ups and downs that happen now.

Staking the locations of new poles and wiring on Frenchboro will start as soon as the Ferry Terminal Substation is completed.

Some members are in the habit of paying two electric accounts with one check. This is fine – as long as the total owed on both accounts equals the amount of the check. But when this doesn't happen, please provide us with some instruction on how you want your funds allocated among your accounts.

## From the Board:

All of the legal costs of defending the rate increase before the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) from April through the end of July have been tabulated. The total costs add up to \$38,000 and change. This includes about \$8,000 which the Co-Op spent internally in travel expenses back and forth to Augusta, the mailing and copying costs of keeping the membership informed as required by the PUC and the hours devoted by our Co-Op staff. Legal invoices totaled \$30,000 for the four months of legal advice, representation and negotiations.

To place this \$38,000 cost in perspective, the estimate to construct a complete new Switching Station at the Ferry terminal is \$45,000. At this writing, your Cooperative has paid \$20,000 toward the the \$38,000 bill and plans to pay off the remaining \$18,000 over the next three months. As your Co-Op works to regain its financial footing, we have had to reduce our right of way clearing operations to try to remain in the black.

## October, 2014

Please mark your calendars for our next Quarterly Community Update which is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, November 13th at the Library at 7 PM. This will be a chance to hear a progress report on what we have learned so far on alternative energy (especially solar), a review of our By-Laws and Terms and Conditions, and what we are hearing from Emera about future rates and the costs & benefits of combining with another Maine utility.

- ELECTRIC CO-OP OFFICE HOURS: 7:30 AM – 4 PM
- PHONE # 526-4336
- OFFICE MAY BE CLOSED BETWEEN 11:00 AM AND 12:00 PM FOR LUNCH.
- OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON HOLIDAYS.

### AFTER HOUR EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

JEFFREY ELLISON: 207-479-0657  
STEVE GREEN: 207-479-0658  
BONNIE TURNER 526-4282

### BOARD MEMBERS:

Ed Schwabe – President  
Jason Matthews – Vice President/Sec  
John Trask – Treasurer  
Sonny Sprague  
Bob Pickup  
George Baker  
Eric Chetwynd  
Joe Staples  
Jim Stone