

# SWANS ISLAND ELECTRIC COOP NEWSLETTER

## From the Manager:

The new year has brought some changes to SIEC. In the field, Ralph Murphy, our senior lineman will be increasing his time on the island to 3 days each week starting this month. On the billing side of the house we will be phasing out the separate bills for security lights. This will reduce our administrative costs and give our members all their billing information on a single monthly (or quarterly) invoice. Also a reminder – we will soon begin disconnecting all security lights on poles that do not have billing accounts.

After consultation with the MPUC and discussion at the SIEC January 5th board meeting we will begin this month to offer MPUC mandated winter payment plans to our members who are having trouble making their payments. In a nutshell, members will be able to pay their average summer bill amount during the winter and pay higher bills the next summer. The higher summer payments will

result in complete pay-back by October. Additionally, members with pre-existing payment plans will have the option of suspending payments on their outstanding balance during the winter months but late charges (0.892%/month) will be applied to their full outstanding balance. The “ratchet” principle is at work here in that there be no increases in total outstanding debt. If members cannot comply with the modified payment arrangements SIEC will petition the MPUC for permission to disconnect.

Our law firm, Eaton Peabody, has organized a closing on our RUS \$813,000 loan for the week of January 23rd. This is a big milestone and we plan to move into procurement of needed poles, cable and other items right away.

At the time of this writing we are preparing for the upcoming public meetings on January 17 and 24 on Swans Island and Frenchboro. We will report on those meetings in the February newsletter.

We continue to spend time each week clearing power line rights of way. You can see the results of our work up in the area of East Point & Red Point Roads intersection. The reasons we need to do this work are twofold: a) to remove the branches that can come into contact with the lines (every time a branch hits a line power is lost – the cost of all lost power is included in the delivery charge on all of our bills), and b) to remove trees that are obvious threats (leaning or dead trees/branches).

Finally, we are in the process of draining and dismantling the one remaining generator and switchgear in the old generator building to make room for transformer storage. When our work is done we will be soliciting bids for junking the metal.

## JAN 2012

## From the Board:

This month Ed & Deb Schwabe are at their family home in Georgia having a well deserved break from the cold dreary coastal Maine winter. They'll be back on the island sometime in February.

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

AFTER HOUR

EMERGENCY

NUMBERS:

TOM MCALOON

207-479-0657

STEVE GREEN

207-479-0658

BONNIE TURNER 526-4282