

SWANS ISLAND ELECTRIC COOP NEWSLETTER

From the Manager:

We start this newsletter with a few housekeeping items. You may have noticed on the Swans Island Town Calendar that the SIEC Annual Meeting was listed as July 19th. This has been changed and the Annual Meeting is now scheduled for 7 p.m. on July 26th at the Odd Fellows Hall. This year we will not be giving out door prizes but will be offering desert, soft drinks and coffee/tea. Our office will be closed on the morning of Wednesday June 20th and will re-open after lunch so we can conduct a mandatory first aid training for all staff. Finally, in an effort to make sure that all our members are being reached with the same information at the same time, we will begin sending our newsletter only in those months in which we bill both our monthly and quarterly customers, i.e., January, April, June, July, August, September and October.

As our seasonal residents on Swans Island return you will notice some visible progress on

our pole replacement program. Poles have been field delivered to locations on Atlantic Road and Atlantic Loop Road in preparation for installation later this month. We are taking delivery on another truckload of poles this week which we plan to install in critical locations later in the year. SGC Engineers are in the early design phase for upgrades to the main substation at the Swans Island ferry terminal. In order to minimize outages during the work we have started discussions with the Maine DOT to expand our utility easement. This will allow the new station to be built while the existing station remains in service and improve access for maintenance. The old poles & fencing will be removed when the new substation goes into service. On Frenchboro we have been working with some of our members to upgrade their service entrances and with the town administration for the provision of a new service to the town wharf. The pole replacement program on Frenchboro is still in the planning stage.

From the Board:

Last month's newsletter announced some of the results of our formal Wind Power Feasibility Study as well as your Board's decision to delay any action for the next 12-24 months.

This column continues to explain the reasons why we believe it makes sense to "watch and wait" for the time being. There are two ongoing developments underway which impact wind energy economics, nation-wide. The first is the temporary glut in domestic natural gas supplies which has driven the cost of electric power down to levels we enjoyed 10 years ago. The second development concerns the expiration of a number of Federal tax incentives which would have enabled your Cooperative to reduce the direct cost of a wind power project by 30%. The present political deadlock in Congress makes it unlikely that these incentives will be reinstated until at least after the Presidential elections this coming November.

Since the whole reason for considering a wind

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power project revolves around providing cheaper electricity to our members, these two factors argue against rushing ahead. Nevertheless the Cooperative will continue to seek ways to position itself to take advantage of any available grants which might improve our ability to move ahead if, and when electricity prices begin to rise, and once the political issues of a national energy policy become settled. We will talk more about the Feasibility Study results at our Annual Meeting, July 26th, 7 p.m. at the Odd Fellows Hall.

- 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

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