

SWANS ISLAND ELECTRIC COOP NEWSLETTER

From the Manager:

We start this issue of the newsletter with some unfortunate news. Our Line Superintendent, Ralph Murphy, gave notice this month that he has accepted a position at Bangor Hydro. This is a good opportunity for Ralph and we wish him well. He has contributed immeasurably to SIEC and we will miss him. Needless to say, his departure has forced a change in our immediate plans and it is important for our members to know what to expect. We have advertised for the full time position and hope to complete recruitment and hiring in 2-3 months. We have also contracted with a first class line worker on an interim basis for 2 days/week to keep up with our routine line work. Due to the reduced staffing and the need to place safety first you will be experiencing more outages while we conduct work on de-energized lines. If you are planning electric work on your home that will require SIEC field crew involvement please give us at least 1-2 weeks notice. We ask for your understanding and patience. In order to continue to make progress on our infrastructure program we will

expand the scope of services provided by SGC Engineers of Orono, ME to include preparation of contractor pricing packages, solicitation of bids, field layout, inspection, and close out. This scope of services will allow SIEC to rely on outside contractors for pole and conductor replacement while we use our reduced SIEC forces to keep our system running.

Another change will be an increased demand on management time in the field. This will reduce progress being made in other areas such as developing formal terms & conditions of service, and working with our members on safety code upgrades.

Despite the above changes we must continue to comply with various rules of the Maine Public Utilities Commission. You will see on the reverse of the newsletter a mandatory "Know Your Rights" notice to all our members regarding the Winter Disconnection Period. If any of you expect to have trouble paying your electric bill this winter please contact us at the office at your earliest convenience.

From the Board:

The departure of our Line Superintendent Ralph Murphy reminds us of how much we rely on every single member of our staff, and the huge impact we absorb when one of our key employees moves on to greener pastures. It is simply a fact of life that a tiny Electric Cooperative must confront, and there is nothing to do but to adjust our immediate goals and plan smart, strategically.

Speaking of long-range planning, please tentatively mark your calendars for November 8th, a Thursday evening, for our upcoming Quarterly Electric Co-Op Community meeting. We will be discussing mid-term and long-range plans, including a report on discussions with Fox Island Electric Cooperative regarding ways that our two organizations might share resources and combine functions – all aimed at doing things more efficiently.

Once we confirm the time and location for this Community update, we'll post flyers around and get the event on the Island Community calendar.

OCT 2012

- 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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