

# WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE  
LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

## Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative building for the future!

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At the 2008 Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative Annual Meeting Chairman Tom Bennett announced that Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative will be building two new facilities. A combination of interest rates being favorable coupled with the need for both buildings made 2008 a constructive time to look into the future.

**Darlington:** The Darlington building was purchased by the City of Darlington in 2007. This resulted in renting space on Main Street downtown Darlington for an office and storing trucks in a building outside of town. This inconvenient situation was a temporary fix

until SREC could find the proper location to construct a new building. The new facility will be located adjacent to the industrial park with the office, trucks and pole yard all at the same location. P.A. McGuire began construction in June.

**Gays Mills:** With the flooding of the Gays Mills office (twice in ten months), SREC realized that the trucks are not only extremely valuable but are important to have located outside of the flood zone and able to respond to any situation. A financial analysis also supported the move by saving \$27,952.50 per year in Transportation and Labor costs between buildings along with the following considerations:



- \*Materials are currently stored at both warehouses
  - \*The current office does not conform to requirements of safety accreditation. i.e. No exit lighting, electrical facilities are ungrounded, etc.
  - \*Duplication of services. i.e. lawn mowing, snow plowing, electric/gas/telephone utilities.
  - \*The new building will be on the SREC system, located within village limits and built at the existing truck garage and pole yard.
- Brickl Brothers Construction began work in June.

## In Deepest Sympathy

A long time employee of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, Allan George, passed away.

His obituary reads: Allan L. George, 63, of Petersburg, rural Gays Mills, passed away Sunday May 18, 2008 at the University Hospital, Madison. He was born Feb. 20, 1945 in Crawford Co., the son of Lyle and Eva (Burkum)

George. He was a 1963 graduate of Gays Mills High School; he then joined the U.S. Army Paratroopers. He married Linda Leffler June 7, 1969 at Luther Memorial Luthern Church. He was a lineman for the R.E.A. (now Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative) for 38 years; retiring in 2005 because of his health. He was a lifelong member of, baptized and confirmed at Luther Memorial; where he was frequently a

reader for services; seemed like he was on the church council for as many years as I can remember; and served as the council president and other offices through the years; and was always there when a project needed to be done; a saint in every sense of the word. He is survived by his wife, Linda; children, Corey, Madison; Bobbi Jo, Racine; and Zachary and Zoey at home.  
**"Blessed Be His Memory"**

Experts say that our nation's growing electricity needs will soon go well beyond what renewables, conservation and efficiency can provide; What is your plan to make sure we have the electricity we'll need in the future?

What are you doing to fully fund the research required to make emissions free electric plants an affordable reality?

Balancing electricity needs and environmental goals will be difficult. How much is all this going to increase my electric bill and what will you do to make it affordable?

## ***Dairyland's 67th Annual Meeting***

More than 700 delegates and guests attended Dairyland's 67th Annual Meeting at the La Crosse Center yesterday. The theme of the meeting was "Generation for Generations." Since 1941, Dairyland has been committed to reliably meeting energy needs while addressing environmental and economic concerns, and will continue to do so for future generations.

Bill Berg, Dairyland President and CEO, illustrated how Dairyland has kept that commitment through the generations—from the early years when we were the first to bring electric light and heat to local rural communities to today's investments in renewable energy and state-of-the-art power plants.

"When we look back on Dairyland's history, we see that our cooperative built and planned not only for the present, but also for the future. Our philosophy has been to always make things better by what we do, and build on what we have done in the past," said Bill.

During his speech, Bill announced Dairyland's new contract with DTE Energy Services for 40 MW of biomass renewable energy generation. "This major initiative will effectively double Dairyland's renewable energy portfolio when it comes online in 2010," said Bill.

Charlie Schrock, President, Wisconsin Public Service Corp., (WPSC), addressed the audience on the new Weston 4 power plant, of which Dairyland has a 30 percent share. Construction is nearly complete on the 531 MW Weston 4 power plant being built by WPSC near Wausau. The plant will implement clean coal technology while providing baseload power generation. Commercial operation is on schedule for later this month.

Don Huff, Dairyland Director, Environmental Affairs, discussed Dairyland's environmental policy, stewardship and regulatory climate. Dairyland Senior Biologist John Thiel gave a presentation on the fish habitat stewardship project Dairyland supported during the Flambeau drawdown last year. Brian Krambeer, President and CEO

of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, presented on the Power of the Cooperative Family regarding the support their members received after the August 2007 flood.

The meeting closed with a message on energy conservation. Referencing a conservation campaign launched by Dairyland earlier this year, Bill reminded attendees to "Do the Bright Thing" by replacing standard incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).

Bernard Welsh, Treasurer of Dairyland's Board and director representing Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, provided a 2007 Financial Report.

Dairyland's total operating revenues for 2007 increased to \$328.4 million, as compared to \$284 million in 2006. Electric sales were fairly stable in 2007, with total sales at 6.16 billion kilowatt-hours—compared to 2006 sales of 6.12 billion kilowatt-hours. For the full report, see the news release under Press Releases on Dairyland's website, [www.dairyland.com](http://www.dairyland.com).

## ***DPC procures major biomass contract***

### **40 MW of renewable energy to come online in 2010**

Dairyland has executed a power purchase agreement with a subsidiary of DTE Energy Services, Inc., to purchase the full 40 MW expected electrical output of a proposed new biomass power plant located in Cassville, Wis. The facility will burn wood waste to generate renewable energy for the members of the Dairyland system.

A subsidiary of DTE Energy Services will own and operate the facility, which is the former E.J. Stoneman Power Plant. (Dairyland sold the Stoneman plant in the

mid-1990s.) The plant will be converted from burning coal to instead utilize wood-waste biomass for fuel. The power purchase agreement has been submitted to the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) for approval. The proposed plant is scheduled to come online June 1, 2010. Its 40 MW of biomass renewable generation will be enough to power 28,000 residential homes in our system.

"We are very pleased to be part of an alliance with DTE Energy Services that benefits both our members and the environment. This renewable resource is a

winner on all levels, as it recycles waste wood for use as fuel to generate electricity for a very significant number of energy users in our cooperative system," said Bill Berg, Dairyland President and CEO.

DTE Energy Services, Inc., (Ann Arbor, Mich.), acquires, develops, builds, owns and operates projects for large, energy-intensive industrial customers. The company is a subsidiary of DTE Energy Co., a diversified energy company involved in the development and management of energy-related businesses and services nationwide. Visit [www.dtees.com](http://www.dtees.com) for more information.

## ***Environmental Update- Planning - and Paying - for Nuclear Waste***

***By Scott Gates***

Nuclear power accounts for 15 percent of electric cooperative power supply. It is always available, solidly reliable, and emits no carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas blamed for contributing to climate change.

But there's no such thing as a free lunch. With all of the perks of nuclear power comes a major headache: what to do with high-level radioactive waste.

Nuclear waste, in one form or another, gets generated at almost every step of the process of turning uranium ore into a safe, reliable fuel for electricity. When something is "radioactive," it constantly emits unseen waves at a molecular level, the result of atoms actually decaying and shedding particles. In many cases this decay occurs naturally - a chunk of uranium ore, an unassuming chalky yellow rock, is naturally radioactive.

Radiation isn't always a bad thing, but too much of it can damage living cells. And in the case of waste from nuclear power plants, its untapped potential energy poses a national security risk as it can be used as an ingredient in weapons manufacturing. This makes nuclear waste particularly tricky to dispose of safely and securely.

In 1982, a fund was established by Congress to develop a national repository for storing the nation's nuclear waste, such as spent uranium fuel bundles, from commercial nuclear power plants, defense installations, and national laboratories. Consumers who receive electricity from nuclear power plants pay a one-tenth of 1 cent fee on every kWh used. The fund's balance now stands at about \$30 billion, with \$9.5 billion having been spent on research and development of a permanent storage facility. Of that, more than \$700 million has come directly from electric cooperative consumers.

After decades of planning, a site for the repository was approved by President Bush in 2002. Yucca Mountain, Nev., about 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, was selected out of nine potential sites and has been authorized to hold 77,000 metric tons of waste. The Electric Power Research Institute, a non-profit utility-sponsored organization whose members include electric co-ops, found the site capable of holding between 286,000 and 628,000 metric tons if need be.

The storage site has yet to open, and the U.S. Department of Energy has estimated it won't until at

least 2021. In the meantime, waste must be stored "temporarily" on-site in aboveground cooling pools or dry casks at nuclear reactors, which can be costly for plant owners. Dairyland Power Cooperative, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative's generation and transmission co-op based in La Crosse, Wis., has been storing fuel at a now-closed nuclear power plant since the early 1970s waiting for Yucca Mountain to open.

"It currently costs our consumer-members \$5.5 million a year for security, maintenance, and monitoring of this site," says Deb Mirasola, Dairyland Power manager of corporate communications. Nuclear waste remains a costly problem, and for electric co-ops like Dairyland Power, the solution can't come soon enough.

***Sources:*** *Electric Power Research Institute, U.S. Department of Energy, Dairyland Power Cooperative, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association*

*Scott Gates writes on technology and energy efficiency for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

### ***Did you know?***

***Dairyland is projecting that energy use in our 25 member cooperative system will rise by over 60 percent by 2025.***



### ***Tree Maintenance***

***Tree Crew Locations for July-***  
***Crawford- Clayton***  
***Grant- Wyalusing and Patch Grove***  
***Lafayette- Gratiot, Shullsburg,***  
***Darlington and Seymour***





## focus on energy™

*The power is within you.*

Joe Budworth of JP Dairy knows one of the secrets to helping his bottom-line on his 90 cow dairy operation: Focus on Energy efficiency. "Examining your dairy operation for energy efficiency potentials is a must in today's dynamic Ag market," says Budworth.

Recently Mr. Budworth installed a variable frequency drive (VFD) on his vacuum pump as well as a refrigeration heat recovery (RHR) tank (or free heater) on his electric water heater in Lancaster, WI. The variable speed on his vacuum pump will improve his cost effectiveness and quality of his milk production while the RHR system will help pre-heat water entering the water heater as well as assist the compressor unit.

Joe had been working with Ron Wilson of Fullers Milker Center, who encouraged Mr. Budworth

to have Josh Kaurich, an energy advisor for Focus on Energy to perform a free farm energy assessment. Focus on Energy demonstrated that installing a RHR unit and VSD would save JP Dairy about \$200 per month. Due to high fuel prices and overall increased operation costs, he was limited in his ability to finance these improvements. Focus on Energy and Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative stepped in to assist with a grant to help offset a portion of the total cost. With a Focus on Energy grant, JP's simple payback for the RHR system was 1.1 years while his payback for the VSD was 3.3 years.

Currently, Joe is saving between \$180 and \$200 per month due to the implementation of the RHR system and VSD. "Focus on Energy showed me the benefits of energy

efficiency on the farm; and in the end, the installations have been well worth it. With the help of Focus on Energy, moving forward with the recommendations was an easy and cost effective decision," said Budworth.

To learn more about the benefits of Focus on Energy contact Megan Graney at 800-236-2141 ext. 105 or [mgraney@srec.net](mailto:mgraney@srec.net).

### **Rhubarb Cake**

- 4 cups cut-up rhubarb
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 (3oz) strawberry jello
- 1 12 cup mini marshmallows
- 1 cup nutmeats
- 1 yellow cake mix

Place rhubarb in buttered 9x13 pan. Add sugar, marshmallows, jello and nuts. Mix cake mix according to directions on the box. Pour over rhubarb. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Tip upside down when baked.

**Thank you Violet for sharing this delicious recipe!**

## **Power Your Mind – Learn who is bringing you power**

### **Jeff Farrey- District Supervisor**

#### **Family-**

- **Wife:** Lynn
- **Children:** Brandon (Madison)  
Megan (Madison)  
Scott (Madison)

#### **Hobbies-**

I enjoy golfing, fishing and hunting.

#### **Why did you choose to become employed at SREC?**

My job at SREC started out as a summer job between High School and College. I liked the work and was fortunate enough to get a full time job. That was almost 33 years ago!



#### **What do you enjoy most about SREC?**

Every day in this field of work seems to be a new challenge. It is great to see the final result whether it is building a service for a new member or restoring power to the last member after a storm.

## **WATT'S HAPPENING**

*Watt's Happening* is published monthly as an information service to the member-owners of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

Any questions or comments can be directed to *Watt's Happening*, c/o Megan Graney, Editor, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free Lancaster 800-236-2141, Darlington 800-236-6656, and Gays Mills 888-735-4314.

[www.srec.coop](http://www.srec.coop)

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