

WATT'S HAPPENING

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

Your Opinion Matters

During August, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Market Research Services will be conducting a telephone survey on behalf of Dairyland Power Cooperative and its 25 member distribution cooperatives, including Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

The purpose of the survey is to help determine which conservation and energy efficiency measures would have the greatest benefit to you, our members, and the Dairyland system.

A number of our residential members will be randomly selected for this 12-minute telephone survey. If selected, please answer all questions completely and honestly. Your participation is very important and your responses will remain confidential. If you have Caller ID, NRECA Market Research Services uses interviewers calling from these area codes: (712), (605) and (402) and an (800) number. If you see one of these area codes, please take the call as it may be one of their interviewers. If you are busy, you may ask them to call back at a more convenient time. They will be happy to do so.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Building Update



Darlington: Site preparation and street infrastructure are being worked on.

Gays Mills: The engineers are waiting for approval of the steel structure.



QUEST LINE

At Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, we put a lot of effort into helping our members make the most of their money and our resources. That's why we're especially excited about this new online newsletter.

The Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative Questline was developed especially for business members, who want the best service and an even better ROI. You'll find the Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative Questline rich in important research information and industry trends. It's an absolute "must" for businesses that want to increase operational efficiencies and improve risk management and cost containment. Yet this service goes a step further.

Through SREC Questline, you can interact with your Member Service Department, and even get online advice via the Ask an Expert Section. What better way to stay in touch and informed? If you see a program that may be of value for your organization, just click on the link under Customer Manager and email her today.

This Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative Questline newsletter will be emailed to you once each month. It is a complimentary service and anyone can register by going to www.questline.com. We hope you will enjoy each issue and we look forward to providing you with this valuable new service.

Dairy Farm Rewiring Loan & Grant Program

Wisconsin electric cooperatives have developed a uniform statewide farm rewiring program entitled "Safety First!" The purpose is to assist dairy farmers with the cost of rewiring projects and to promote safety.

Loans and Grants

- A loan/grant combination is available up to \$25,000.
- Grants are available for 20 percent or up to \$5000 from the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association.
- Loans are available for 80 percent or up to \$20,000 from your electric cooperative.
- Take up to 5 years to repay the loan.
- 3-percent interest applies to the loan.

Requirements

- Dairy farms only
- Existing farmstead
- Pre-program inspection
- Electrician's estimate
- Service agreement for length of loan
- Credit eligibility requirements

How is the Safety First! grant program funded?

Wisconsin electric cooperatives contribute annually towards the grant money.

How long is the program available?

This started as a three-year program that began on November 1, 2002 and it has been funded to run through at least December 2009.

What expenses are covered under the loan and/or grant?

Labor and materials needed to rewire the farm are covered. Isolation transformers, rings of life, and other systems not defined in the National Electrical Code (NEC) are not eligible expenses under this program. New construction is not eligible.

Can I apply for a grant and not a loan?

Yes, 20 percent of the total cost of the project, up to \$5,000 is available without applying for a loan.

How will the loan be billed?

The monthly loan payment will be included on your electric bill.

Can I get a loan for wiring a new barn?

No, only existing structures are eligible. New barns must be wired according to the latest version of the code.

Will funds be available to rewire my house as well as the barn?

Yes, if the service for the barn is served from the main panel in the house.

Will funds be available for partial rewiring projects on the farm?

If an approved state-certified inspector recommends a partial project to meet safety standards and the electric cooperative agrees there is a need to resolve safety concerns, partial projects may be approved. Pre- and post-inspections are required for all partial projects.

Who will do the electrical work?

You can choose an approved Electrician.

What are the credit eligibility requirements?

Members must be in good credit standing with their local cooperative.

Will I have to sign a service agreement?

Yes. A service agreement, indicating that you will receive energy from your electric cooperative for the duration of the loan, is required.

Are there any fees associated with this loan?

Yes. Pre- and post-inspections by an approved state-certified inspector are required for the loan. However, your electric cooperative will pay the costs. Your electric cooperative will handle the processing of the UCC fee.

Can I pay the loan off early without a penalty?

Yes.

Is there a lien on my property?

Yes. The property serves as collateral for the loan.

What happens if I default on my loan?

If you're delinquent on your loan (for two consecutive months), the loans will become due and payable immediately. The electric service may be subject to disconnection.

How do I apply?

Contact SREC to schedule an appointment with an approved state-certified inspector and a representative of your cooperative to determine the extent of the project. Then you choose an approved Electrician to give you a bid on the project, and you provide your cooperative a copy of the bid. If the bid meets the loan/grant requirements, the project is given preliminary approval.

When will I receive the grant money?

Grant money will be given after a post-inspection when the wiring work is completed according to NEC, and all of the invoices and the wiring affidavit are given to your electric cooperative.

What happens after the rewiring is completed?

SREC will schedule the state-certified inspector to inspect the work and he/she provides written documentation that the work was completed according to NEC. You provide invoices from the electrician and the wiring affidavit. SREC sends a check request for the grant money and then applies it to your project costs.



Environmental Update- Beefing up Natural Gas Imports

Natural gas is increasingly becoming the go-to fuel for power suppliers. Rising costs for basic construction materials like concrete and steel coupled with mounting environmental policy pressures are making it more difficult to build coal-fired generation, which currently supplies electric cooperative members nationwide with 62 percent of their power requirements. Natural gas plants, which are cheaper and quicker to bring on-line, are becoming a necessary choice to fill the void.

But if natural gas consumption continues at current rates without an increase in imports, our domestic reserves will be tapped out in about 10 years, according to U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates.

"The future of natural gas supply hinges on liquefied natural gas [LNG] imports," says Ken Kern, a director at the National Energy Technology Laboratory. The United States currently gets the

majority of its LNG from Trinidad, in the Caribbean, and the African countries of Egypt, Nigeria, and Algeria.

LNG is essentially methane that has been cooled and liquefied for easier long-distance transport. Double-hulled tanker ships bring the resource to specially designed terminals dotting the U.S. coastline—six are currently receiving imports, from Freeport, Texas, to Everett, Maine. A terminal in Puerto Rico also serves North America.

Once unloaded, the liquid gets transferred by pressurized, heavily insulated trucks to storage facilities, or heaters at the docks warm LNG into its natural state for pumping into a pipeline. The resulting gas can be burned for electricity, as well as used in homes for heating and cooking.

Several LNG terminals are in development in anticipation of the country's coming reliance on imported natural gas. Another

40 such projects being discussed, according to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

But with LNG, foreign sellers can divert a tanker carrying it at sea to higher-paying customers anywhere on the globe. That means demand for natural gas alone may not be enough to bring tankers ashore.

"Even if LNG supply grows adequately to meet our needs, the concern is that Japan, India, China, and Europe will have first shot at the product because they're closer to the key sources in the world," warns Kern.

A strained supply of LNG could lead to further price increases, eventually being reflected in electric bills.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration, National Energy Technology Laboratory, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Currently Cooking

Corn Salad

2 cans of corn- drained
½ red bell pepper- chopped
1 c. miracle whip
3 green onions- chopped
3 tomatoes- diced



Mix all above ingredients. Before serving add 10oz bag chili Fritos- crushed. Serve cold.



Tree Maintenance

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



Weston 4 Power Plant Achieves Commercial Operation

WAUSAU, WI— The Weston 4 power plant, of which Dairyland Power Cooperative has a 30 percent ownership interest, has achieved commercial operation. Wisconsin Public Service Corp., the majority owner, constructed and will operate the plant which is located near Wausau, Wis.

The newly constructed 525 MW (nominal rating) power plant will use clean coal technology, a high efficiency boiler, use low sulfur coal as fuel and feature sophisticated emission controls to minimize environmental impacts.

“Despite continuing emphasis on conservation, demand for energy in Dairyland’s four-state service territory is projected to continue increasing. Our partnership in the Weston 4 facility helps to ensure that our cooperative membership

can count on a dependable, clean supply of electricity for generations to come,” said Bill Berg, Dairyland President and CEO.

Construction on the \$774 million project began in October 2004. The massive project required nearly 1,000 construction workers, who built the plant safely and on-schedule.

The Weston 4 facility features a state-of-the-art emission control system to bring another source of clean, reliable and competitively priced electricity to homes and businesses. “It was designed to be one of the cleanest fossil-fueled power plants in the nation,” said Charlie Schrock, President of Wisconsin Public Service Corp.

With headquarters in La Crosse, Wis., Dairyland provides wholesale electricity to 25 member distribu-



tion cooperatives and 19 municipal utilities. A Touchstone Energy Cooperative, Dairyland’s service area encompasses 62 counties in four states (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois). Dairyland’s generation resources include coal, natural gas, hydro, wind, landfill gas and animal waste. For more information, please visit www.dairynet.com.

Wisconsin Public Service Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Integrys Energy Group, Inc. (NYSE: TEG), is an investor-owned electric and natural gas utility headquartered in Green Bay, Wis. It serves approximately 420,000 electric customers and 309,000 retail natural gas customers in residential, agricultural, industrial, and commercial markets, as well as wholesale customers in north-eastern and central Wisconsin, and an adjacent portion of Upper Michigan.

Visit www.wisconsinpublicservice.com for more information.

Power Your Mind – Learn who is bringing you power

Robert “Buck” Hampton

Large Construction Supervisor

Family-

- Wife: Jackie
- Sons: Zach (Samantha)-Madison
Adam -Madison

Hobbies-

Hunting, Fishing and of course Wisconsin Football

Why did you choose to become employed at SREC?

As a child my dad always had me helping him trim trees. The summer after graduating the co-op had an opening on their tree trimming crew. I thought it would be a good start to my career. I went to lineman school in 1982 and have been building lines to bring members power ever since.



What do you enjoy most about your job at SREC?

In all aspects of my life, outside is where I want to be. Each day presents a new challenge to build lines that are in interesting situations. The members that I have met in all three counties have only added to the enjoyment.

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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.sre.coop

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