

cooperative REVIEW

for members of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Summer's high temperatures can impact your energy use 4

Join us for SMECO's 2011 Annual Meeting 5

Call before you dig 5

Plug into green 6

Around Town 6

Take me out to the ball game... 8

Ahead of the reliability curve

Many people take electricity for granted...until the power goes out. That's when it becomes obvious how much we rely on the light switch working every time.

Power outages happen. While we do our best to plan and build a reliable system, power can still be knocked out by a storm, a traffic accident, or even a faulty underground cable. The key to reliability is limiting the opportunity for outages and

Reliability
continued page 2

The 2011 SMECO Annual Meeting is right around the corner. See page 5 for information about the upcoming event. Our customers are our owners and we look forward to seeing you there!



Reliability

CONTINUED

restoring the power as quickly as possible when the unavoidable happens.

Electric utility reliability standards have been a hot topic in Maryland following a dismal response by some electric providers to satisfy their customers' need for reliable service. During this year's legislative session, the Maryland Electricity Service Quality and Reliability Act (HB 391) was passed. The act requires the Public Service Commission (PSC) to develop reliability standards for electric companies in Maryland by July 1, 2012, and allows the PSC to impose fines of up



to \$25,000 for every day the utility company fails to meet the terms. The penalty fine can not be recovered in customer rates. Although SMECO will need to meet the PSC standards,

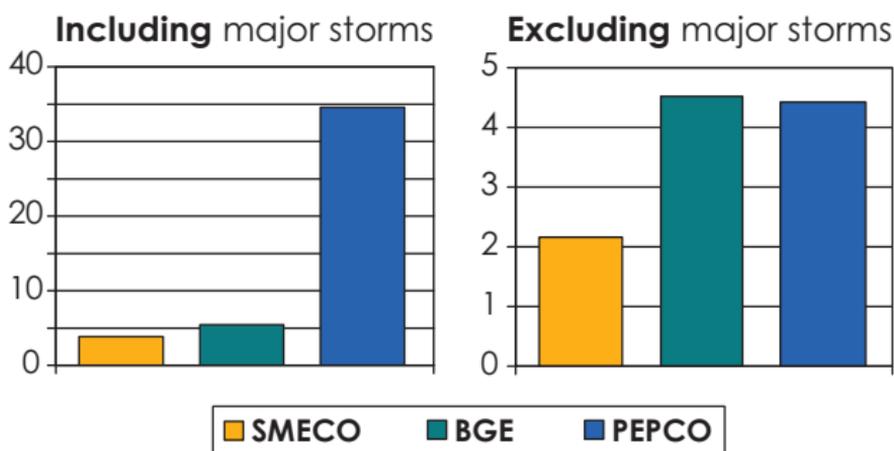
we were successful in amending the bill to remove the Cooperative from the penalty provision. As a member-owned utility, the penalties would affect the very people the act was established to protect—our customers.

Reliability is important to SMECO, and key performance measures indicate that while some utilities struggle, SMECO is performing well.

The three indices that the electric utility industry uses to measure performance are the System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI), the System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI), and the Customer Average Interruption Duration Index (CAIDI).

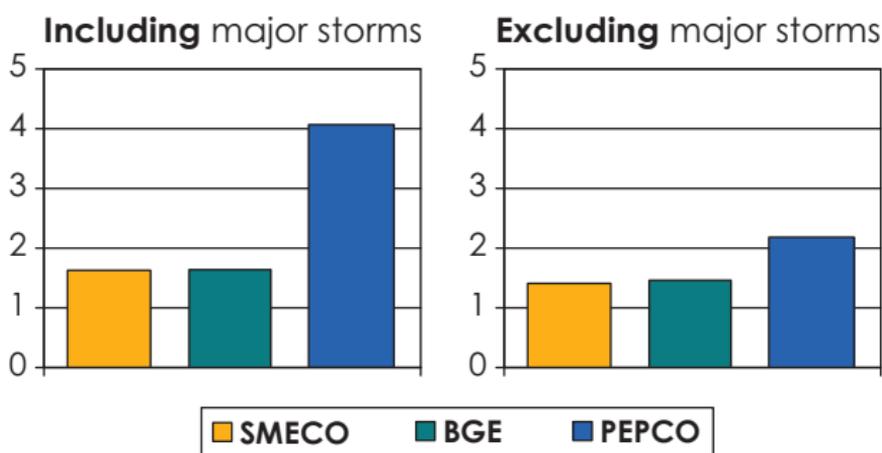
SAIDI measures outage duration and indicates the average number of hours each customer was without electric service during the calendar year.

2010 SAIDI



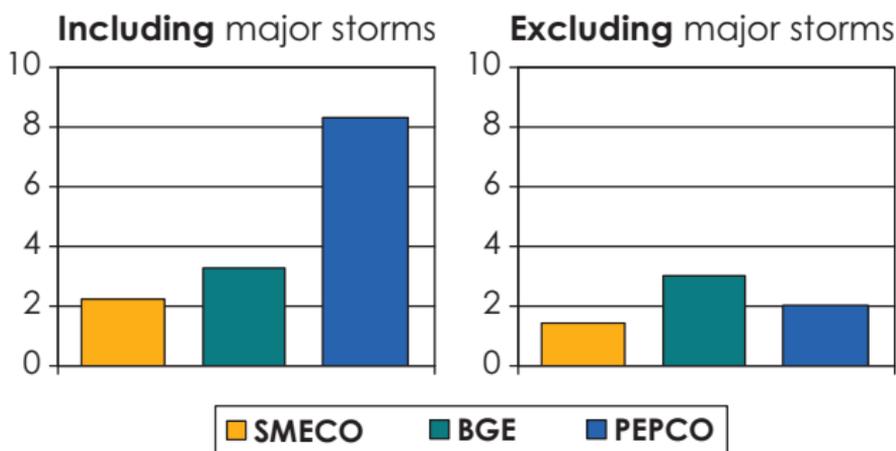
SAIFI measures the number of times the average customer experienced a sustained service interruption.

2010 SAIFI



CAIDI measures the average duration in hours for customers who experience a power interruption.

2010 CAIDI



With our excellent track record, we will continue to work hard to meet and exceed the reliability standards the PSC develops.

Summer's high temperatures can impact your energy use

When the temperature goes up, so does your energy usage and ultimately your bill.



Heating and cooling costs are usually the biggest part of your energy bill—as much as half of your summer energy goes to cooling your home!

The ideal comfortable temperature varies with the level of activity, clothing, and an individual's personal preference. So as the temperature climbs, many

of us head straight for the thermostat. Follow a few simple steps to keep your energy use in check even as the temperature outside soars.

- Increase the energy-efficiency of your windows by installing shades, shutters, or drapes. You can also apply sun-control or other reflective films.
- Keep curtains and shades closed during the day to block the sun's heat.
- Control air leaks around windows and doors with caulking or weather stripping.
- Use fans when you are in a room to increase circulation.
- Set your thermostat at 78°.
- Apply for SMECO/Maryland rebates ranging from \$75–\$900 for improving the energy efficiency of heating and cooling systems. Check our website for additional rebates.

Visit www.smeco.coop/save for ways to stay cool and still save energy and save money.

Join us for SMECO's 2011 Annual Meeting

Join us Wednesday, August 24, at the Blue Crabs Regency Furniture Stadium in Waldorf for the Co-op's Annual Meeting. Register and vote from 3 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

After you vote, you can also learn about our many energy-conservation programs, sign up for a Quick Home Energy Check-up or CoolSentry, and enjoy entertainment provided by local performers.

Members who are unable to attend the meeting may request an absentee mail-in ballot by calling 1-888-440-3311, extension 4722, or by visiting our website at www.smeco.coop. Requests for absentee ballots must be submitted by Thursday, August 11. SMECO must receive completed mail-in ballots by mail by August 23.

If you vote for a business or organization, **you must bring the registration identification card to the annual meeting.** If you don't have the registration card, you won't be able to vote.

SMECO will mail the official Annual Meeting Notice along with a voter registration card to each customer-member on or around July 22. The notice will contain complete meeting details, including biographical information for each individual running for a seat on the Board of Directors.

Call before you dig



Call Miss Utility by dialing 811 before you plant a tree or shrub, start a garden, or install a fence. SMECO will mark the location of underground power lines on your property. One call will save you a lot of time, trouble, and money. It could also save your life!



plug into Green

Do you rent? You can save too! Consumer electronics play a role in your home's energy consumption, accounting for up to 15% of household electricity use. Many consumer electronics products use energy even when switched off. Unplug any battery chargers or power adapters when not in use. Use a power strip as a central "turn off" point when you are finished using equipment.

Source: www.energystar.gov

around **TOWN**

August 6

Point Lookout

Lighthouse Open House

Sponsor: Point Lookout Lighthouse Preservation Society (PLLPS), Inc.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Scotland, Maryland

Docents from the Point

Lookout Lighthouse

Preservation Society will

be on hand to answer your questions. No

charge to enter the lighthouse, however

standard park

entrance fees apply.

Donations greatly

appreciated, and

all funds go

toward restoring

the lighthouse

to the 1927

time period.

301-872-5688

www.PLLPS.org



August 8, 2011

AARP Driver

Safety Program

Sponsor: AARP and Office on Aging

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Calvert Pines Senior Center

Attendees should arrive 30

minutes prior to complete

paperwork. **\$ Registration**

Pre-registration is required.

410-535-4606

301-855-1170

August 27

Chaptico Classic

Sponsor: Local volunteers

Register at 7 a.m.,

race at 8 a.m.

Christ Church Hall, 37497

Zach Fowler Rd., Chaptico

Join us for the 26th

running of the Chaptico

Classic. The T.A.C. certified

course was described by

Running Times as "one of

the best county road races."

Sign up for 10K, 5K, or a

Fun Walk. Meet Olympic



Visit www.smeco.coop/community/aroundtown for more events.



competitor and bronze medalist Lynn Jennings. Prizes will be awarded to the top male and female runners as well as the

top three racers in six age categories for each event. T-shirts and other goodies for all.

\$ Registration

301-475-2886
www.active.com/running/chaptico-md/chaptico-classic-2011

Back to School Block Party

Sponsor: Trinity United Methodist Church

4 to 8 p.m.

Trinity UMC 90 Church St., Prince Frederick

Send your kids back to school in style at Trinity's Block Party, featuring

free school supplies, live music, a barbecue picnic,

K-9 demonstrations & fingerprinting, crafts, a

moon bounce, and a dunk tank. Entrance is free; food

is available for purchase.

410-535-1782



Take me out to the ball game...

On **8/11**, SMECO customers can get tickets to see the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs play for only **\$8.11** as a reminder to always call Miss Utility at **811** before digging.

To get your tickets:

- Visit www.somdbluecrabs.com and click on "Buy Tickets Now."
- Select the \$13 tickets for the 8/11 game (*offer is only valid for the game on August 11.*)
- Enter 811 as the promotional code and the ticket price will reset to \$8.11.



**SOUTHERN MARYLAND
BLUE CRABS**

**MISS UTILITY
811 NIGHT**

at the REGENCY FURNITURE
STADIUM in WALDORF, MD

Thurs Aug 11, 2011 7:05 p.m.

SOUTHERN MARYLAND BLUE CRABS

SECTION	ROW	SEAT
8	1	1



00000000000811

8 1 1

This offer is presented to you by SMECO and the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs.