

# cooperative REVIEW

for members of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- New lighting labels will help consumers choose efficient lights 4
- SMECO publishes strategic plans 5
- Plug into green 6
- Around Town 6
- Do you have old photos or memorabilia to share? 8

## Reliability project picks up traction in Calvert

The increasing demand for electricity in Southern Maryland has prompted SMECO to make necessary improvements to our transmission system that will ensure continued reliability for our customer-members. Over the past 30 years the number of our customers and their corresponding energy use have skyrocketed.

The Southern Maryland Reliability Project is an

**Reliability**  
*continued page 2*

*On February 5, 1937 at 3 p.m. newly appointed directors Wendell M. Reed, V.J. Donat, and John B. Hupp signed the certificate of incorporation. There in La Plata, on a cold February afternoon, under lighting supplied by the Maryland Light and Power Co., the Southern Maryland Tri-County Cooperative came into existence. Pictured at right are SMECO linemen in 1940.*



**SMECO**  
People. Power. Progress.™

SMECO  
**75**  
YEARS

# Reliability

CONTINUED

upgrade of an existing 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Calvert and St. Mary's counties to 230 kV. This upgrade will ensure reliable power for SMECO's customer-members with a minimal effect on current rates or the environment. The project will use existing rights-of-way to minimize tree-clearing, protect our waterways from new line crossings, and restrict activity within a utility corridor that has been established for decades. The total project length is 30 miles, including two miles of transmission cable that will be installed under the Patuxent River. The project will complete a continuous 230-kV loop through our service area, providing increased reliability and better flexibility to move power around in the event of an outage.

upgrade of an existing 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line in Calvert and St. Mary's counties to 230 kV. This



*This is an example of a similar double-circuit 230-kV pole located in Reston, VA. This pole is approximately 110 to 130 feet and is the same self-weathering (brown) steel as SMECO's poles.*

To date, SMECO has completed many of the necessary permitting milestones, as well as the engineering milestones. The project is scheduled to be completed in three years, with construction beginning in the spring of 2012.

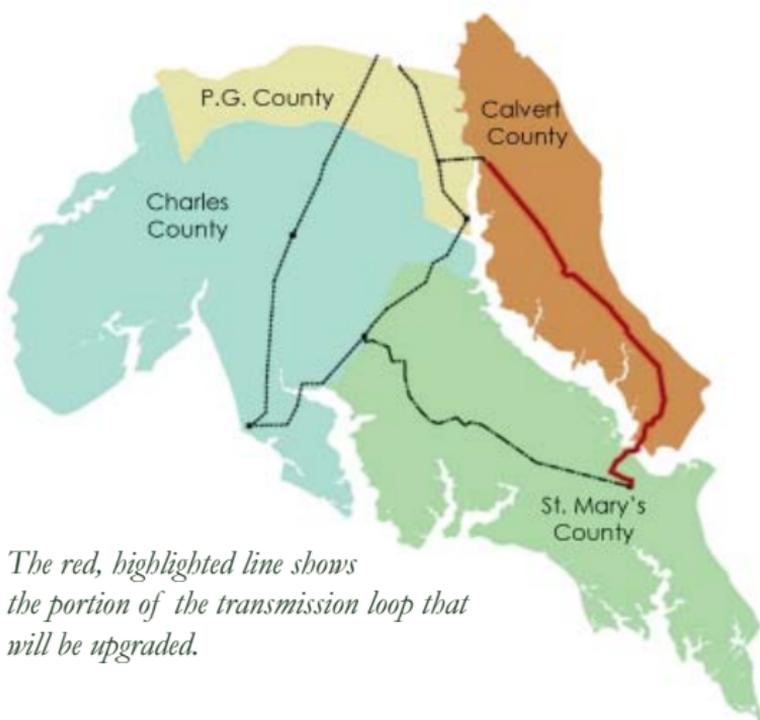
SMECO has worked during the engineering and permitting phases to ensure minimal impact to the environment. Construction will have a temporary impact to 2.55 acres of wetlands, but permanent impact has been limited to about 300 square feet. SMECO has no planned right-of-way cutting in wetlands. When wetland areas cannot be avoided, SMECO will use wetland mats and stream bridges

for construction equipment. The protective matting and temporary bridges will be removed once construction is complete in that area; we will then restore the area to its original condition. We will also have 45 percent fewer pole locations and 69 percent fewer poles in wetlands.

The 230-kV poles will be larger than the existing poles. The new poles will be installed on concrete foundations and average 135 feet in height. The existing poles are approximately 65 to 75 feet tall. The taller poles will allow us to reduce the number of pole locations on the right-of-way by more than 40 percent.

SMECO has been working diligently to notify and work with neighborhoods along the line route. We have been meeting with individual landowners and homeowners' associations near the right-of-way, and we will be hosting open houses to provide an opportunity for customer-members to learn more and ask questions about the project.

We plan to have additional open houses prior to the start of construction. If you would like a representative to come to your community for an open house, or if you have questions about the project, please contact SMECO's Government and Public Affairs Manager Tom Dennison at 301-274-4342 or [thomas.dennison@smeco.coop](mailto:thomas.dennison@smeco.coop).



*The red, highlighted line shows the portion of the transmission loop that will be upgraded.*

# New lighting labels will help consumers choose efficient lights

As of January 1, 2012, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) requires manufacturers to use a new Lighting Facts label on packaging for medium screw base light bulbs. This includes traditional incandescent bulbs, as well as the newer high-efficiency compact fluorescent lights and light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs. The new label looks similar to familiar food nutrition labels and will help consumers make the most efficient lighting choice for their needs.

The label will be featured on the front of the package and will emphasize the bulbs' brightness—measured in lumens—rather than their wattage. Watt measurements are a familiar determinant in choosing a light bulb, but they measure energy usage, not brightness. With the higher efficiency lighting option available, the new measurement will help consumers choose lights based on their brightness and not how much power they use. A compact fluorescent light can produce the same brightness as an incandescent bulb while using a lower wattage.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Lighting Facts</b>  |   |
| Per Bulb   |   |
| <b>Brightness</b>  | <b>870 Lumens</b>   |
| <b>Estimated Yearly Energy Cost</b>  | <b>*\$1.57</b>  |
| Based on 3 hrs/day.  |   |
| kWh Cost 11¢   | <br>LEARN MORE AT <a href="http://energystar.gov">energystar.gov</a> |
| depends on rates and use   |   |
| <b>Life</b>  |   |
| Based on 3 hrs/day 5.5 years   |   |
| <b>Light Appearance</b>  |   |
| Warm <span style="display: inline-block; width: 100px; border-bottom: 1px solid black; position: relative; top: -5px;"><div style="position: absolute; left: 0; top: -5px;">^</div><div style="position: absolute; right: 0; top: -5px;">v</div></span> Cool |   |
| 2700K  |   |
| <b>Energy Used</b>   | <b>13 watts</b>   |
| <b>Contains Mercury</b>  |   |
| For more on clean up and safe disposal visit <a href="http://epa.gov/cfl">epa.gov/cfl</a> .  |   |

|                              |
|------------------------------|
| <b>Brightness</b>            |
| <b>870</b><br>lumens         |
| <b>Estimated Energy Cost</b> |
| <b>*\$1.57</b><br>per year   |

Standard incandescent bulbs are slated to be phased out over the next several years and the new labels should help consumers adjust their purchasing decisions during this transition. These labels will provide information about:

- Brightness
- Energy cost
- The bulb's life expectancy
- Light appearance ("Warm" or "cool" light)
- Wattage
- Whether the bulb contains mercury

The bulbs brightness and its amount of mercury will also be featured on the bulb. Decorative and special purpose lamps, such as three-way bulbs and those with a candelabra base, are exempt.

SMECO is also offering in-store discounts on ENERGY STAR® qualified compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) to help you save instantly when you purchase new lights. Receiving your discount is simple and automatic, because the savings are included in your purchase price at the register of participating retailers in our service areas.

## SMECO publishes strategic plans

In this month's bill, you will find an insert that details the purpose, mission, core values, corporate culture statement, and the corresponding strategy for SMECO to achieve its goals. This strategic map describes who we are, what we stand for, and our vision for the future.

The executive staff worked together with SMECO's Board of Directors, as well as focus groups comprised of employees and customer-members, to ensure that our values and goals are cohesive and represent what will best benefit the members of the Cooperative as we move forward.





If you have a waterbed,  
do you make the bed  
after you wake up?

Placing a comforter on  
a waterbed can save  
about \$3.65 each month.

## around **TOWN**

**February 5**  
**SMECO begins our**  
**75th anniversary**  
**celebration**

On February 5, 1937,  
the papers were filed  
at the courthouse in La  
Plata, Maryland and the  
Cooperative became an  
official electric utility.

1-888-440-3311  
smeco.coop



**February 11-12**  
**20th Annual Antique**  
**Show and Sale at**  
**La Plata High School**

Sponsor: La Plata High  
School Band Boosters

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

La Plata High School  
Radio Station Rd,  
La Plata. Dealers from  
the Mid-Atlantic region.

Free parking, door prizes,  
and refreshments.

**\$ Admission.**

301-259-2411

lphsbandboosters.com

**February 20**  
**President's Day**

SMECO offices closed  
Our Contact Center is  
available 24/7.

1-888-440-3311

www.smeco.coop



Visit [www.smeco.coop/community/aroundtown](http://www.smeco.coop/community/aroundtown) for more events.

## **February 25**

### **Little Flower School Auction**

Sponsor: Little Flower  
School

Doors open at 5 p.m.  
Little Flower School,  
20410 Pt. Lookout  
Road, Great Mills  
Annual Benefit Auction

"Patriot Pride—An Historic Evening." The auction will have an all-you-can-eat buffet featuring Rita B Catering, both silent and live auctions featuring auctioneer, Dan Raley, as well as numerous raffles.

301-994-0404  
[littleflowercatholic.org](http://littleflowercatholic.org)

---

Please be cautious about strangers coming to your door claiming to be from SMECO. SMECO employees who work in the field do not accept cash for electric bill payments.

A representative from the Cooperative will have a uniform, identification, or a vehicle with a SMECO logo on the door. If you are unsure, please call us to verify that the person in question is a true representative of SMECO. Also, please do not give your account numbers or other personal information to unsolicited callers.



## Do you have old photos or memorabilia to share?

January marks the beginning of our 75th anniversary. Through the coming months, we have a lot of exciting things planned to celebrate 75 years of service to our community and a future of bringing electricity to Southern Maryland. Please visit [www.smeco.coop/75years](http://www.smeco.coop/75years) for updates.

We would like to celebrate all of Southern Maryland and its history over the past 75 years and we need your help. If you have photographs or momentos of bringing electricity to Southern Maryland—or any items of historical significance to the community—we would love to see them. We will scan your photos and use them during our year-long anniversary celebration. Please send your items to:

### **SMECO, 75th anniversary**

P.O. Box 1937, Hughesville, MD 20637  
301-274-4482

Please indicate whether you are donating your photos or if you would like them returned, please include your contact information an address for those that must be returned.

