

cooperative **REVIEW**

for members of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Charles County
69-kV line will add
needed reliability 4

Scholarships
available for
high school seniors 5

Download the
new SMECO 24/7
mobile app 6

Around Town 7

Have you signed
up for Members
Helping Members? 8



Check out page 6 for information on the new mobile app, SMECO 24/7, and SMS text service.

Successful river crossing

SMECO contractors began work on the Southern Maryland Reliability Project river crossing on September 6, 2013, by drilling under the Patuxent River from Town Creek in St. Mary's to the Navy Recreation Center in Solomons. The crossing was successfully completed on December 5 and there are now two sets of conduits in place that can hold a double-circuit 230-kV line under the river, as well as a communications cable. The first set of cables will be installed in the fall of 2014. The second set of cables will be installed based on load requirements in the future.



Conduit at the Navy Recreation Center.

With the drilling and the conduit pull-back complete, the next step for the river crossing will be to finish clean-up on the sites and prepare for duct bank construction, which will begin in February 2014. Duct bank construction is the installation of the conduits from the river crossing to the overhead lines on both sides of the river.

After completion of the duct bank, the underground power cable will be installed in the conduits joining the 230-kV overhead lines in Calvert County with the overhead lines in St. Mary's, late in 2014.

On the Calvert County side, foundation and pole installation is ongoing from the Sollers Wharf switching station south down to Solomons. Overhead conductor has been installed down to Lusby and will continue down to Solomons. Pole setting will begin again in Solomons around the middle of February.

Access roads are under construction in St. Mary's County along the right-of-way to the Hewitt Road station. Installation of foundations along Route 4 and MD Route 235 is ongoing and pole installation will begin in St. Mary's at the end of first quarter 2014.

The Southern Maryland Reliability Project is 30 miles long, including 28 miles of overhead line and two miles of underground line, and will supplement the existing 69-kV with 230-kV capacity. For more details about the Southern Maryland Reliability Project, please visit smeco.coop/reliability.



*Above: The flexible PVC (fPVC) conduit positioned for the pullback.
Right: Installing conductor on Phase Two south of Sollers Wharf Road.*

Charles County 69-kV line will add needed reliability

Growth and aging infrastructure in Charles County prompted the construction of an upgraded 69-kV transmission line from the Hawkins Gate switching station near



Work continues on new 69-kV line to add additional reliability in Charles County.

La Plata to the Westlake substation in Waldorf during November. Because of the increased population and electricity needs in the area, Westlake substation is one of the most heavily loaded substations in SMECO's service territory. The new line will be an upgraded replacement to a single-circuit line currently in place.

The new line, combined with a second transmission line from Hawkins Gate to a new substation in Wooded Glen, will ensure continued reliability for that area of Charles County.

The construction of the project began with the installation of access roads. Extra effort is being taken during each step of the construction process to minimize impact to wetlands in the area. Wetland mats were placed along the route to provide access for construction vehicles in sensitive areas. SMECO is also relocating a portion of the line out of the wetlands in the area between Route 488 and the St. Charles Parkway.

Crews began installing poles in December. Construction is expected to be complete in 2014.



Scholarships available for high school seniors

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative is offering \$1,500 college scholarships to four high school seniors who are graduating in 2014 and who live with parents or guardians who are SMECO customers. The deadline for all completed scholarship applications to be received is **March 7, 2014**.

For more information or to obtain an application, **visit www.smeco.coop**, see your school career counselor, call SMECO at **1-888-440-3311, extension 4340**, or visit the customer service desk in SMECO's Leonardtown, Prince Frederick, and Hughesville offices.

Completed application packages (all items must be submitted as one package) may be taken to one of the SMECO offices listed above or mailed to:

Attention: Bernadette Lewis
SMECO Headquarters
P.O. Box 1937
Hughesville, MD, 20637

Applicants for Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative's scholarships shall be considered based on the cooperative's established guidelines without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, or handicap.

Download the new SMECO 24/7 mobile app

Report your outage, view the up-to-date outage map, and pay your bill all with the touch of a finger. Download the new SMECO 24/7 app for your smart phone or mobile device and make doing business with SMECO even easier.

The convenient new mobile app will also provide direct links to SMECO's Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and news feed—right at your fingertips.

Download the app for free from Apple iTunes or Google Play. Simply type in SMECO 24/7 in the search field.

SMS notifications

SMECO is also introducing a text messaging service so customer-members can receive updated information about outages. The service enables customers to report outages, receive power restoration updates, and request outage status updates through their phone. This service is free from SMECO, but standard message and data rates may apply through your cell phone carrier.

To sign up, simply text REG (for register) to 76326 (SMECO). You will then receive a text from SMECO that will ask for your account number or phone number, and your zip code. Once you've signed up for text messaging with SMECO, you will be able to send and receive SMECO-related texts.

Don't get caught in the dark, sign up for SMS text notifications and download the SMECO 24/7 app today.



Quick reference for SMS text feature

To register for SMECO 24/7, start by texting REG (register) to 76326 (SMECO) from your text-enabled phone. Use the following commands to manage your notifications:

SMECO SMS text commands:

REG	Register for SMECO 24/7 text service.
PAUSE	Temporarily stop notifications.
RESUME	Cancel PAUSE command and begin receiving notifications again.
STOP	Cancel SMECO 24/7 notifications.
NICK	Assign a nickname to your account.
HELP	Receive a list of text commands for managing SMECO 24/7 messages.
STAT	Receive an outage status for your registered accounts.
OUT	Report an outage for your registered account.

aroundTOWN

Feb. 13

Eat Wings. Raise Funds

Sponsor: Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake, Inc.

5 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Buffalo Wild Wings, 11215 Mall Circle, Waldorf. Come out for dinner or a snack.

On this day, 10 percent of all food purchases will be donated to Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake. Please present a copy of this announcement to your server.

202-680-4138
biglittle.org

auCTIONeer Dan Raley. There will be a jewelry raffle, games, and door prizes. Doors open at 5 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m. and a live auction at 8 p.m. **\$ Admission.**

301-994-0404
lfsauction.webs.com

Feb. 27

Eat Wings. Raise Funds

Sponsor: Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake, Inc.

5 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Buffalo Wild Wings, 46370 Lexington Village Way, Lexington Park. Everyone is invited to gather for dinner or a snack. On this day, 10 percent of all food purchases will be donated to Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake. Proceeds will benefit children and youth in St. Mary's, Charles, and Calvert counties.

202-680-4138
biglittle.org

Feb. 22

Hooray For Hollywood

Sponsor: Little Flower School

5 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Little Flower School, Great Mills. Buffet Dinner by RitaB. Early-bird special—purchase tickets before 2/1. Table reservations are available for parties of eight or more. Live and silent auctions will be held with



Have you signed up for Members Helping Members?

Members Helping Members is a program where customers in Southern Maryland can help their neighbors who are struggling to pay their electric bills throughout the year.

As a thank you to our neighbors who lend a hand, customer-members who sign up between November 12, 2013, and **January 31, 2014**, will receive a reward based on their level of giving.

- Every member who enrolls during this period will receive a **free T-shirt**.
- Those who sign up for the \$5 level will receive a **\$15 gift card** in addition to their T-shirt.
- Those who join Members Helping Members at the \$10 level will receive their free T-shirt and a **solar charger**.

How do I help?

It's easy! Simply sign up to add \$1, \$5, or \$10 to your SMECO electric bill every month. To enroll:

- Call 1-888-440-3311
- Go online at www.smeco.coop/ourCommunity/membersHelpingMembers.aspx
- In person at the customer service counter at a SMECO location