

cooperative **REVIEW**

for members of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative



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A commitment to sustainability ensures protection for the beautiful and natural heritage of Southern Maryland. Learn more about SMECO's sustainability goals and successes on page 4.

New Managing Director named

SMECO recently named Christopher Norton as the cooperative's new Managing Director of Electric Operations and Construction. Norton, who starts his new role this month, is currently Electric Operations Manager of Major Projects at We Energies in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We Energies is the trade name of Wisconsin Electric Power Company and Wisconsin Gas LLC, utility subsidiaries of WEC Energy Group.

Norton joined We Energies as a Quality Assurance Engineer in 1989. By progressing through various positions, he has gained wide-ranging experience in engineering, design, budgeting, supervising, and managing teams. Most recently, as the Manager of Major Projects, Norton collaborated with asset management personnel to prioritize and schedule projects, and he managed overhead personnel, as well as overhead and underground contractors, to implement the utility's \$170 million major project work plan.

As an Electric Operations Manager for customer field operations, Norton supervised all aspects of

the overhead, underground, and trouble shooter resources required to safely provide reliable service to customers in the northern area of the utility's service territory. He has managed the Electric Distribution Control Center for We Energies, where he emphasized operational reliability and emergency response capabilities. Norton was responsible for all the functions of the control center—which provides service to more than one million customers—including compliance with safety rules and regulations.

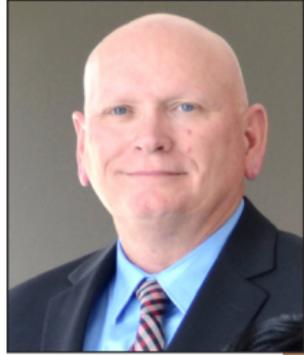
Earlier in his career, Norton supervised construction projects, including a \$100 million steam generator replacement, a project to add a diesel generator, and a nuclear plant service water upgrade. As a team leader, he has established work group goals, implemented major project work plans, managed financial resources, monitored safety performance, and evaluated work processes and procedures. Norton also worked extensively with the IBEW Local 2150 bargaining unit personnel.

Norton's extensive experience with the many aspects of successfully managing the operations side of the electric utility—from underground and overhead distribution, to vehicles and mobile data systems—is impressive. His ability to work with regulators and stakeholders, and his knowledge and understanding of the importance of good communications with employees and customers, provide him with a solid foundation for serving SMECO in his new role.

Norton began his career at Boston-based Stone and Webster Engineering Corporation, where, as a Senior Inspector, he trained and supervised the inspectors at Florida Power and Light's Turkey Point Nuclear Plant. He has a Master of Business Administration degree from Barry University in Florida and a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Engineering from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. He is also a Registered Professional Engineer in the state of Wisconsin.

Norton is filling the position most recently held by William Lawman, whose career at SMECO spanned 43 years. Lawman, who retired in June, grew up in Chapel Point and began working at the cooperative in 1973 as a groundman apprentice in

the Charles-Prince George's region. He progressed through the ranks as a lineman, general foreman, district engineering supervisor, district manager, and distribution construction manager. As head of electric operations and construction, Lawman helped transform SMECO's service regions into a solid, organized team. Lawman has also served his community as an emergency volunteer for more than 40 years at the Cobb Island Volunteer Fire Department, where he currently holds the office of president. He received a Firefighter of the Year award for saving his grandfather from a burning house in November 1972.



William Lawman

Stay in touch with SMECO



Don't wait for a storm. Download the SMECO 24/7 mobile app or sign up for text messaging and be prepared.



Mobile app

Report outages, view the up-to-date outage map, and pay your bill—all with the touch of a finger. Download the SMECO 24/7 app and make doing business with SMECO even easier. Free from Apple iTunes or Google Play.

Text notifications

Prefer texting? Just text REG (for register) to 76326 (SMECO). With SMECO's easy-to-use texting service, you can report outages, get status updates, and pay your bill through your phone via text. This service is free from SMECO, but standard message and data rates may apply through your cell phone carrier.

smeco.coop/SMECO247

SMECO stands for sustainability

SMECO recently issued its position statement on sustainability to document the cooperative's progress on meeting its goals to reduce energy consumption, minimize its carbon footprint, and increase the amount of renewable energy in its power portfolio.

"Focusing on sustainability is part of our core values and is included in our strategic plan," said Austin J. Slater, SMECO's president and CEO. "Sustainability is as much about preserving our heritage and maintaining a healthy environment as it is about conserving energy. We want to keep our forests, fields, and pastures green, our black-eyed Susans golden, and our Maryland crabs blue."

At SMECO, we want to do the right thing by the environment and by our customers. Helping our customer-members to become more energy efficient not only helps our environment by reducing energy consumption, it also helps customers reduce their energy bill.

As noted in its sustainability report, SMECO has surpassed its EmPOWER Maryland goals for improving efficiency and reducing energy use per capita. Customer-members have saved more than 242,170 megawatt-hours by participating in SMECO's EmPOWER Maryland and demand response programs, which includes more than 40,000 participants in the SMECO CoolSentry program.

In a recent national survey conducted by Touchstone Energy cooperatives, two-thirds of the members surveyed support a balanced energy portfolio and programs that help customers reduce energy use, such as smart thermostats and online energy portals. For other members, the affordability of energy is most important.

SMECO is working to improve its use of natural resources and advocating at the state level for cost-effective renewable energy goals and a framework for sound environmental practices. The



cooperative is continuing to add wind and solar to its power portfolio.

In 2014, SMECO was honored by the Solar Electric Power Association as the Electric Cooperative Utility of the Year. In 2015, nearly six percent of SMECO's power purchases came directly from renewable resources. More than 3,200 SMECO customers have installed solar panels to make efficient use of renewable energy at their home or business. Customers who are interested in installing solar at home can go to SMECO's website and try the WattPlan online tool. WattPlan can help provide a cost-benefit analysis. SMECO does its best to help customers navigate the application process in coordination with their solar installer.

"We've made some significant accomplishments and have demonstrated our commitment to sustainability by optimizing automated technology on our electric system and promoting flexible schedules and teleworking for employees," Slater said. "Engaging employees in our sustainability effort is very important. In fact, we are publishing a 2017 calendar that features photos that were taken right here in Southern Maryland by SMECO employees. When you look at some of these spectacular images, you'll see why sustainability is crucial to preserving our heritage."

The *Sustainability Position Paper* lists SMECO's goals and accomplishments for environmental leadership and tracks our progress in conserving energy and purchasing power from renewable sources. You can read the paper on our website at smeco.coop/sustainability-position-paper. You can also download a calendar from SMECO's website at smeco.coop/calendar2017.

Keep the holidays safe

SMECO wants you to have a safe and happy time throughout the holiday season. From Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, please keep safety in mind. Here are a few simple tips to remember.

- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree.
- In homes with small children and pets, take special care to avoid sharp or breakable decorations.
- For a live tree, make sure it always has an adequate amount of water, and keep it away from any heat source.
- For an artificial tree, choose one that is tested and labeled as fire resistant. Artificial trees with built-in electrical systems should have the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label.
- Use no more than three light sets on any one extension cord. Extension cords should be placed against the wall to avoid tripping hazards.

December 3

Colonial Christmas

Sponsor: Historic St. Mary's City
11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 47414 State House Road. This light-hearted tour follows a newly freed servant (and colonists) as he tries to employ holiday traditions and the goodwill of the season to win a young lady's heart. \$ Admission, free for children 5 and younger and Friends members.

240-895-4990

HSMCdigshistory.org

Victorian Christmas at the Dr. Samuel Mudd House Museum

Sponsor: The Dr. Samuel Mudd Society
11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Dr. Samuel Mudd House Museum. \$ Admission. Music, refreshments, Mr. and Mrs. Claus, Civil War soldiers, and a walking tour of the house decorated as it would have been in the Victorian Period.

301-274-9358

drmudd.org

December 4

Olde Tyme Holiday Gathering

Sponsor: Town of La Plata
3 to 6 p.m. La Plata Town Hall. The sounds and spirit of the season during an afternoon of good cheer. Come out for holiday music, activities, refreshments, and a visit from Santa.

301-934-8421

townoflaplata.org

American Legion Bluegrass Concert Series—Gibson Brothers

Sponsor: Sons of the American Legion
2 to 5 p.m. American Legion Post 238, intersection of Rtes. 231 and 381, Hughesville. Door prizes and 50/50 raffles. Doors open at noon, show starts at 2 p.m.

301-737-3004

americanlegionbluegrass.com

- Don't use frayed or damaged electric cords, and never use electric lights on a metallic tree.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.
- Make sure the tree does not block foot traffic or doorways.
- Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Avoid using candles; they are a primary cause of house fires during the holidays.
- Never nail, tack, or stress wiring when hanging lights; keep plugs off the ground away from puddles and snow.
- When baking a turkey, stay in the home and check on it frequently.
- When cooking on the stovetop, stay in the kitchen and keep an eye on the food.

Your cooperative cares about your safety. Please have a safe and fun-filled holiday season.

aroundTOWN

December 9

Christmas Party

Sponsor: St. Mary's Department of Aging and Human Services

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Loffler Senior Activity Center, 21905 Chancellors Run Road, Great Mills. Tickets are required.

301-737-5670, ext. 1658
stmarysmd.com/aging

December 9, 10, 11, 16, 17

Madrigal Dinners

Sponsor: Historic St. Mary's City

6 to 7:30 p.m. Reconstructed State House of 1676, 47418 Old State House Road. Feasting, firelight, and music in the lavishly decorated Reconstructed State House of 1676. Reservations required.

240-895-4991
HSMCdigshistory.org

December 10 10th Annual Christmas Market

Sponsor: All Saints Episcopal Church

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church parish hall, Sunderland. Crafts, gourmet cocoa, Glühwein, music, and home-baked goods. Free admission and parking.

410-257-7694
allsaints1692.org

St. Mary's Splash

Sponsor: St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Point Lookout State Park. A fun, family event open to all residents of the tri-county area. Jump into the freezing Patuxent River to raise money for Special Olympics.

301-475-4200
stmaryssplash.com

December 26 Christmas Holiday

SMECO offices closed. Our Customer Care Center is available 24/7.

1-888-440-3311
www.smeco.coop



One dollar a month could help your neighbor

We know that part of being a good neighbor is to lend a hand when needed, and we know our customer-members share this charitable spirit, especially during the holidays.

For people who have fallen on hard times, receiving enough money to pay past due electric bills can make a big difference in their lives.

By contributing to Members Helping Members, you can join your neighbors to help keep the lights on.

How do I help?

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

Each month donations are sent to the Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee, which will administer the funds to those customer-members who seek aid and meet the qualifications.

How do I participate?

If you would like to donate money to help your neighbors keep their lights on, you can sign up to enroll in Members Helping Members in several convenient ways:

- Call **1-888-440-3311**.
- Go online at **smeco.coop/community/members-helping-members**.
- Sign up in person at the customer service counter at a SMECO location.