

Seasons Greetings

**Another year passed to the history books,
and it was again a busy one for our staff.**

Message from the General Manager

Our apologies to many of our members who experienced power outages this past fall. We had numerous substation problems and we are working with Dairyland Power Cooperative to make improvements to eliminate this situation. Dealing with birds and squirrels can be most challenging, as was the case for most of the major outages.

A record number of new services were installed this year, as home loans attracted considerable building. We are very proud of the addition of Our Lady of Victory Hospital at Stanley to our cooperative family. We are looking for additional growth in the area as the economy begins to improve.

We continue to support and be actively involved in the Clark County Economic Development Corporation. Promoting growth helps our tax base, and hopefully we can add to our employment base.

New electric rates were established effective November 1. As I mentioned in my reports last year, we stalled the increase until absolutely necessary. The fact that November 1 is late in the year will not help our year-end margins that much.

Another big change this year was the method of refunding our capital credits. My previous article explained we will refund 4 percent of our credits each year to the oldest members on record. We also had to separate the credits from Dairyland Power Cooperative because they went to a 2-percent method, and we have prepaid some of their credits already. This will result in no refund from Dairyland to our members until they have paid Clark Electric all that has been prepaid.

Our subsidiary, Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite Inc., has expanded our heating and air conditioning with new products that promote energy efficiencies. Our new long-distance phone service is catching on quickly as we have more than 450 subscribers.

You will notice in this edition of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* an advertisement for my

replacement. I have indicated to the board of directors that I will retire in December 2004. Being with this organization since 1960 has meant a lifetime of experience, education, and working for some great people. The members of Clark Electric have elected some dedicated people to the board. One of their outstanding qualities has been to let management operate the system under their policies and guidance. They expect accountability, planning, systematic growth, and replacement of facilities. Although the board approves of all employees, it hires only one, the CEO/general manager. Because I am only the third manager, the vice president of human resources from Dairyland Power Cooperative will assist the board in its search.

Our 2004 Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 31, 2004, so mark your calendars and try to attend.

May you all have a healthy and prosperous New Year. ■

Dick Adler
CEO/General Manager



INSPECTIONS ARE FREE

An Independent Inspector will Inspect Your Farm

Are you concerned about the wiring on your farm? We are. With the help of the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association and other electric cooperatives around the state, the Safety First Program was set up to help farmers with wiring problems on the farm.

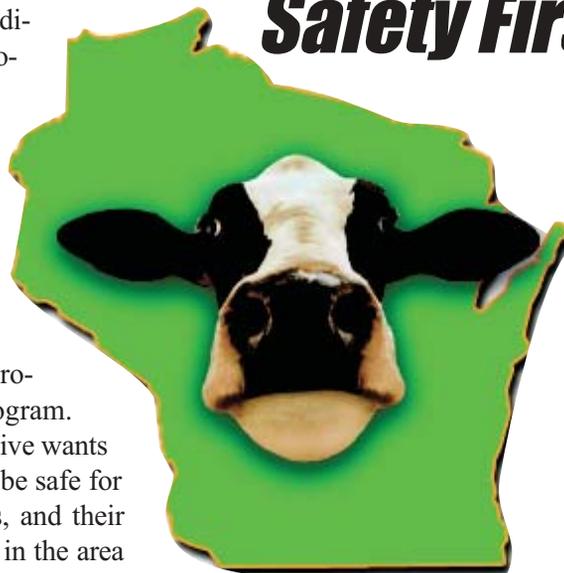
Clark Electric Cooperative will have a certified state electrical inspector come out to your farm and check over both services, yours and ours, that serve your farm. Once this is done, a checklist is provided for you and us to let you know what needs to be done. The Safety First Program helps to provide the financial means to help correct any problems.

Safety First provides a grant for 20 percent or up to \$4,000 to fix problems. A grant does not need to be repaid. Most projects involving wiring that needs to be corrected or upgraded will cost more than \$4,000. The Safety First Program then helps the member farmer by providing a loan for 80 percent or up to

\$16,000 to cover the additional cost. This gives a total of up to \$20,000 to fix your wiring problems.

You can contact our operations department to get more information on the Safety First Program. We will be happy to send you a brochure detailing the program. Clark Electric Cooperative wants our members' farms to be safe for the farm, their families, and their animals. Many farmers in the area have participated, as well as many more from other cooperatives around the state. Call today for more information, 800-272-6188. ■

Safety First!



DAIRY FARM REWIRING LOAN & GRANT PROGRAM

Chief Executive Officer/General Manager Clark Electric Cooperative Greenwood, Wisconsin

Electric distribution cooperative serving 8,250 services in central Wisconsin (dairy region) seeks experienced leader to succeed Chief Executive Officer/General Manager, who will retire in late 2004. Position is available June 2004 and will work with current Chief Executive Officer until his retirement.

Cooperative also includes a wholly owned subsidiary (Appliances, DirecTV, Geo-Thermal Heating, and Main Street Messenger services). Will report to seven-member board. Cooperative has 38 employees and 1,899 miles of line.

A four-year degree in finance or engineering preferred. At least eight years of progressive upper-level utility management experience is required. Must have knowledge of finance/budgeting, power supply, and engineering/operations. Will consider non-degree with 15 relevant years of utility experience. NRECA Management Internship program graduate preferred. Applicant must also have excellent communication and negotiations skills.

Utility offers a competitive salary commensurate with experience and qualifications, an excellent benefits program, NRECA Pension Plan, and a challenging work environment. Visit our website: cecoop.com.

Submit cover letter, resume, and five-year salary history by February 27, 2004 to:

Board President
Clark Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 190
Greenwood, WI 54437-0190

EOE/M/F

Requirements:

- ✓ Dairy Farms Only
- ✓ Existing Farmstead
- ✓ Pre/Post Inspection
- ✓ Electrician's Estimate
- ✓ Service Agreement for Length of Loan
- ✓ Credit Eligibility Requirements

Master Electrician Clark Electric Cooperative Greenwood, Wisconsin

Master Electrician—With the many retirements coming up, we have decided to change one position to a Master Electrician. This individual must be licensed in Wisconsin and will work with dairy farmers in power quality, metering, and assisting our appliance subsidiary with proper wiring. Eventually becoming a State Licensed Inspector is our goal for this individual. Good communications, neat appearance, and references for quality work are a must. We have exceptional benefits including NRECA Pension. Visit our website: cecoop.com.

Apply to: Bob Moseley, Dir. of Operations, Clark Electric Cooperative, 124 N. Main St. Greenwood, P.O. Box 190, WI. 54437-0190—Phone 800-272-6188

Deadline for applications: January 16, 2004

EOE/M/F

Journeyman Lineperson Clark Electric Cooperative Greenwood, Wisconsin

Journeyman Lineperson—We are looking for an experienced electric power distribution person. Emphasis on metering, power quality, people skills, and self-motivator required. This person needs to be neat and with excellent communication ability. Central Wisconsin offers great outdoor opportunities, outstanding schools, close to larger cities and excellent medical facilities. We have exceptional benefits including NRECA Pension. Visit our website: cecoop.com.

Apply to: Bob Moseley, Dir. of Operations, Clark Electric Cooperative, 124 N. Main St., P.O. Box 190, Greenwood, WI. 54437-0190—Phone 800-272-6188.

Deadline for applications: January 16, 2004.

EOE/M/F

MORE LOCAL NEWS

PROTECTION

Protection gives peace of mind. Protecting your electronic products is important, but you need to make sure they are protected properly. Protection from what, you ask? Electrical surges can come from different sources, such as lightning, but many surges can come from in the house or business, when motors start or appliances turn on. There are certain types of equipment that can offer the protection that is needed with today's electronics. Surge protection is what protects your electronic products. There are different types of surge protection to meet your needs. But it's important you get the right product to do the job properly.

Whole-house surge protection is available; some of these devices come with warranties, but read the fine print to see what is covered and what is not. Usually your white appliances are covered, such as your stove, refrigerator, and furnace. There is now a device for a well; this is a new product. A qualified electrician should install these types of devices. When you have a whole-



Whole-house surge protection is available; check warranty for connected devices. A qualified electrician should install this device.

house device, you still need protection downstream to protect other sensitive equipment.

Downstream protection consist of protecting your valuable electronics such as your DirecTV equipment, computers, TVs, stereos, and anything else of value. But when protecting these devices, you need to make sure all incoming paths are covered. These paths are electrical, phone, and TV and/or cable wire that is connected to your equipment.



An Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) is used to give temporary electric power to aid in the proper shutdown of the device. A UPS also offers surge protection to connected products.

Most people forget to hook up the phone to some type of protection. This is where a majority of surges come in and damage computers, phone answering machines, and satellite equipment. Several devices offer protection for these types of equipment, even little plugs for your microwave! Many of these manufacturers offer warranties for connected equipment. Make sure you look into these. A good rule of thumb is the more a surge suppressor costs, the better it is. Look for fast clamping times when purchasing a device.

We talked about computers needing protection. Computers can have many doors that allow a surge to come in and attempt to do dam-



A surge suppression device is used to protect equipment that is attached to it, such as electrical, phone, or antenna connections.

age. However, when an electrical outage occurs, a computer shuts down immediately. This is not good for the computer nor the work that was being performed at the time. You normally lose all your work. Clark Electric Cooperative has no notice when an outage will occur. Because of this, we highly recommend those who use computers to have what is called an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS). At the cooperative we have backup generation, but there is that instant moment for the generator to start-up and provide power. A UPS provides that power until the generator is operating properly, and it allows the computer user to properly shut down the computer when power is off. When everything is properly connected and sized, you should have power for roughly 15 minutes for your devices.

You can find all of these types of equipment at Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite, Inc., where our staff can help you purchase the proper equipment. If you need a UPS for your business, or just have some questions, give us a call at 866-279-6544. We are glad to help our members. ■



Happy Holidays

From us at

Donna Abel

Dick Adler

Frank Arch

Scott Bailen

Troy Bauer

Jeff Block

Dick Braun

Josh Burns

Larry Dallman

Tom Elmer

Gary French

Mike Hackel

Amanda Hensiak

Sandy Herrick

Derek Hinker

Clarence Hoesly

Vernon Kowalewski

Charles Bena

Harry Johnson

Kyle Johnson

Burton Jolivette

Arnie Kappus

John Knox

Pat Krause

Cathy Langrek

Stephanie Ligenza

Warren Luedtke

Ken Martini

Linda McAley

Dan Michler

Bob Moseley

Ryan Nielsen

Tracy Nelson

Tony Jarocki

Wilmer Peterson

Amber Reddy

Mike Ruff

Jim Rust

Greg Shaw

Sarah Shaw

Rita Sladich

Chad Steffen

Kevin Sterland

Dan Sturz

Rick Suda

Bobbi Toburen

Shannon Toufar

Bob Trunkel

Michelle Walde

Ron Schmidt

Wilmer Griepentrog

Howard Schultz

Clark Electric Cooperative

Clark Electric Appliance & Satellite, Inc.