



LIVE WIRE

Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc. Vol. 15, NO. 2



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FEBRUARY 2010

Live Wire is a monthly newsletter published for members of Choptank Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 430, Denton, MD 21629

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At-Large

More wind power added to ODEC portfolio

Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC) and AES Wind Generation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of The AES Corporation, have announced the start of commercial operation of the Armenia Mountain wind farm in Pennsylvania.

ODEC, the primary power provider for Choptank Electric and 10 other electric distribution cooperatives in Delaware and Virginia, will receive 50 percent of the electricity generated by the 101 megawatt (MW) wind farm which is located in the north central region of the Keystone State.

AES Wind Generation developed, owns and operates the wind farm which is comprised of 67 one and a half megawatt GE wind turbines.

"We are delighted to announce that the Armenia Mountain wind farm is up and running and producing renewable electricity to serve our member distribution cooperatives and their over 500,000 consumer-members throughout the Mid-Atlantic," said Jackson E. Reasor, ODEC president and CEO. "Our contract for the wind-generated energy from this project is part of ODEC's long-term plan to further diversify our power supply portfolio to include a variety of economically-viable conventional and renewable generation resources."

"We also wish to congratulate AES Wind Generation on their successful completion of this exciting project and look forward to its continued successful operation," Mr. Reasor added.

"We're pleased to provide wind power to Old Dominion Electric Cooperative," said Marty Crotty, president of AES Wind Generation. "We hope that the Armenia Mountain project is the first of several opportunities to work together to deliver affordable and sustainable energy."

In July 2008, ODEC signed a 15-year power purchase agreement with AES Wind Generation for 50 percent of the output the Armenia Mountain Wind Farm project. A separate agreement for 50 percent of the energy output from the wind farm was signed by Delmarva Power. AES Wind Generation was chosen as one of the winning bidders following a request for proposals issued in early 2008.

In addition to its contract with AES Wind Power for 50 percent of the output from the Armenia Mountain Wind Farm, ODEC's portfolio of renewable generation resources also includes 100 percent of the power generated from a landfill gas-to-energy project in Worcester County, Md. and a hydroelectric project in Bath County, Va. ODEC has also signed a long-term agreement to purchase the 70 MW of energy projected to be produced by the Constellation Energy Criterion Wind Power Project to be built in Garrett County, Md.

The AES Corporation is a Fortune 500 global power company with generation and distribution businesses. Through its diverse portfolio of thermal and fuel sources, it safely provides affordable and sustainable energy in 29 countries. Its workforce of 25,000 people is committed to operational excellence and meeting the world's changing power needs. AES Corporation had 2008 revenues of \$16 billion and owns and manages \$35 billion in total assets. Visit: www.aes.com.



One of 67 wind turbines now producing energy at Armenia Mountain farm.

You can go greener with Co-op Connections

It's easy being green with a great new offer from Choptank Electric's Co-op Connections Program. Niagara Conservation has joined the program with a new offer available to Co-op Connections members.

"Choptank Electric continues to provide our members with unparalleled benefits by teaming up with Niagara Conservation, the world leader in water and energy conservation, and efficiency products and devices," said Debbie Rementer, key accounts manager and Connections coordinator. "Co-op Connections members can save 20 percent off all online purchases on ItsEasyBeingGreen.com," she said. "Consumers are being bombarded with green merchandise options, so this website was developed to provide accessible, affordable, truly green products in an easy, one-stop shopping site."

"We are delighted to add another outstanding national company such as Niagara Conservation to offer Co-op Connections members exciting deals and dis-

counts," said Mrs. Rementer.

Choptank members can access the www.connections.coop web site or www.itseasybeinggreen.com.

With over 30 years' history of quality and innovation, Niagara Conservation has earned a reputation as the premier manufacturer of high-efficiency water and energy conservation products and is the leading developer of complete conservation solutions. Niagara's mission is to promote efficient, sustainable use of our Earth's resources without sacrificing product performance or appearance. Co-op Connections is a program of the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, a national alliance of local consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing high standards of service to customers large and small. More than 680 Touchstone Energy Cooperatives in 46 states are delivering energy and energy solutions to approximately 30 million customers everyday. Choptank Electric has been a Touchstone Energy Cooperative for over 10 years.

You can go even greener with our new "paperless" billing!
You asked for it, we listened: Pay your power bill online, and you can opt out of being mailed a paper bill. Go to www.choptankelectric.coop and click on "Online Bill Payment" from the home page.

Straight Talk: How to contact your legislators

By **Bob Behlke**
Vice President, Consumer Affairs



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Eastern Shore:
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One Plaza East
Suite 103, East Main St.
Salisbury, MD 21801
410-334-3072

The Census is coming and you can help!

The 2010 U.S. Census will be conducted this spring. Census questionnaires will be mailed out on March 15. The census, as mandated by the constitution, really only works if everyone is counted. There are approximately 332,000 people on the Eastern Shore, and the local census office is looking to count them all.

The local census office will hire temporary part-time and full-time people to work in their own neighborhoods or communities. They must work varied hours, not exceeding 40 hours per week. Since most census taker positions require personally interviewing respondents, you must be able to work when people are typically at home, which includes evenings and weekend hours. In most cases, a valid driver's license and the use of a vehicle are required to work as a census taker. Assignments generally last several weeks.

Be part of the 2010 census team! Earn good pay, get paid weekly, work flexible hours and receive paid training. Some positions pay mileage. Help your community have a successful 2010 census.

The first step is to call the toll-free jobs line at 1-866-861-2010; FedRelay 1-800-877-8339 TTY. For info and a practice test, visit: www.2010censusjobs.gov.

The 2010 Census will help communities receive more than \$400 billion in federal funds each year.

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

Climate Change Legislation Should Be:

Fair. Affordable.
And Achievable.



Our Energy, Our Future™
A Dialogue With America

Senators are drafting climate change legislation NOW, and you can impact the outcome. Go to www.ourenergy.coop to make your voice heard.

Senators are drafting climate change legislation NOW, and you can impact the outcome. Climate Change legislation should be **FAIR**, recognizing regional differences in how electricity is produced; it should be **AFFORDABLE**, keeping electricity affordable for all Americans; and **ACHIEVABLE**, since only a realistic plan can ensure long-term success. Contact your elected officials at www.ourenergy.coop, or fill out this form and return it with your next power bill. We'll make sure they know of your concern!

Your name: *Please print!* _____ Your signature: _____

Your home address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

Home phone: (_____) _____ E-mail: _____



Electricity is a necessity. If Congress has its way, it could become a luxury.

Call Senators Barbara Mikulski and Ben Cardin today toll-free at 1-877-40BALANCE and tell them you cannot afford double-digit increases in your electricity rates.

www.FindABalancedSolution.org

TAKE A BITE OUT OF YOUR ENERGY BILLS & YOUR TAXES IN 2010

Most of the federal tax credits for consumer energy efficiency introduced in 2009 are still in effect for 2010.

If you didn't get around to making all of the improvements to your existing home and principal residence that you had planned for last year, you can still take advantage of these credits through Dec. 31.

Chances are you could earn federal tax credits of 30 percent of the cost of the following up to a maximum credit of \$1,500.

- Biomass stoves
- Heating, ventilating and air-conditioning units
- Insulation
- Roofs (metal and asphalt)
- Water heaters (non-solar)
- Windows and doors

For a detailed description of which products qualify for these tax credits, visit:

www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=tax_credits.tx_index

Be sure to consult with your tax advisor to ensure these credits are applicable to you.



Choptank Trust scholarship update

Exciting news! The amount of the Choptank Electric Trust Scholarships has been increased for 2010. There will be seven \$2,000 awards presented in May.

High school seniors, graduating juniors or first semester graduating seniors whose parents or legal guardians are members or employees of Choptank Electric are eligible for college or technical school scholarships. Recipients are chosen by a competitive screening based on quality of application, academic achievement, community involvement and an essay. The deadline to apply for a Trust Scholarship is March 31.

The application, a scholastic information form and a financial information form must be sent with the essay outlined in the application and a transcript to: Choptank Electric Trust Scholarships, Attn: Anne Whaples, P.O. Box 430, Denton MD 21629. Forms are available at guidance offices and online at www.choptankelectric.coop.

High school seniors whose parents or guardians are members of Choptank Electric, and **whose primary residence is served by the cooperative**, are eligible for a scholarship from the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives Educational Scholarship Foundation.

Recipients will be chosen based on financial need, academic achievement, school and community involvement. Applicants must provide evidence of acceptance in a post-high school educational institution or program.

Applications are online at www.vmdaec.com and www.co-opliving.com/community/scholarship or by writing to: VMDAEC Scholarships, P.O. Box 2340, Glen Allen VA 23059.

Choptank Electric Trust Awards in 2009

The Choptank Electric Trust made the following awards in 2009 for a total of over \$1.5 million. Funds for the Trust are made possible through contributions of members of Choptank Electric who "round up" their bills to the nearest dollar in the Operation Round Up® program. No funds are used for administrative purposes.

Cricket Center, Somerset United Methodist Church, Talbot Co. EAC, North Caroline High Band Assn., Samaritan Group, Kent Co. High Baseball, St. Michaels Community Center, Assateague Coastal Trust, Denton Child Development Center, Queen Anne's Co. Character Counts, Salisbury's Promise Alliance, Stephen Decatur High After Prom Boosters, Dove Pointe, Parsonsburg Vol. Fire Co.(VFC), Kent Island High, Ridgely Police Dept., Secretary VFC, Berlin Performing Arts Committee, Talbot Co. Teen Court, Dixon House, Junior Achievement of the Eastern Shore, North Dorchester High After Prom Committee, Caroline Lacrosse Assn., Boy Scouts of America Troop 137, Dorchester Co. Historical Society.

Ben Layton Memorial 5K (lymphoma & leukemia), Caroline Career and Technology Center, Good Shepherd Cold Weather Shelter, Talbot Partnership for Alcohol & Drug Abuse, Shared Opportunities Services, Federalsburg Police Dept., 4STEPS Therapeutic Riding Program, Women Supporting Women, Prince Street Elementary Safety Patrol, Shore Health Systems, Pinehurst Elementary, Lower Shore Land Trust, Kent Museum, Great Pocomoke Fair, National Kidney Foundation of MD, Sudlersville Family Literacy, McCready Foundation, James B. Richardson

Foundation, Worcester Chorale. Worcester GOLD Senior Fund, Art League of Ocean City, Cecil Co. Classroom Teachers Assn., Choptank Electric Trust scholarships, National Autism Assn. of MD, Horizons at The Salisbury School, Cecilton Lions Charities, Joseph House, LEAD Maryland Foundation, Worcester Co. Veterans Memorial Foundation, Caroline Hospice Foundation, Princess Anne Vol. Fire Co., Fruitland Vol. Fire Co., Dorchester Soil Conservation District, Galena Vol. Fire Co., Federalsburg Police Dept., St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Denton Vol. Fire Co., Character Counts Mid-Shore, Talbot Hospice Foundation, Port Deposit Chamber of Commerce, St. James United Methodist Church, Salisbury Sunrise Rotary Club, Habitat for Humanity Talbot & Dorchester.

Sudlersville Middle School, Caroline Cougars Football, Oaksville Community Club, Maryland 4-H, Chesapeake Center, Dove Pointe, Samaritan Ministries, Diamond Dreams Fitness Center, Transition Center Program, Mace's Lane Middle School, Mid-Atlantic Lady Shockers, Differently-Abled Adolescents for Emotional Support, Choptank Ruritan Club, Caroline Co. Habitat, Greensboro Vol. Fire Co., Rotary Raises Readers, H.O.P.E. Inc., Caroline Career and Technology Center. Community Coalition for Affordable Housing, Salisbury's Promise Alliance, Crime Solvers of the Eastern Shore, Snip/Tuck Inc., Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers, Worcester Co. Garden Club, Project Outreach, Ridgely United Methodist Church. The Trust assisted 99 individuals with funds for medical and housing needs.

Would you rather read the "Live Wire" online? Call 877-892-0001 to opt out from receiving a paper copy and go to www.choptankelectric.coop.

Watt's the Answer?

Win \$10 credit on your electric bill by entering our monthly trivia contest.

Watt's the Answer for February: Who is the only Baseball Hall of Famer to serve in the U.S. Senate?

Send answer with name, address, account and phone to: annew@choptankelectric.coop or Watt's the Answer, Choptank Electric, P.O. Box 430, Denton MD 21629. Answers must be received by Mar. 5. The winner will be announced in April. The winning answer for December was sent by Emory Leonard of Salisbury who knew the Lego toy company makes more rubber tires than any other company!

DANCE: Pine Steppers, Wed., 7 p.m., Ocean Pines Comm. Ctr. 410-208-6331/6777; Pepper Steppers, 2nd Sat., 8 p.m., 1st UM Church hall, Chestertown, 410-810-0926/778-4578; Dorchester Swingers, Maple Elem., Cambridge, 8-10, 1st Fri. 410-822-7535; Line, Fri., LOE, 107 Alexander Ave., Salisbury, beginners 6 p.m., 410-749-1981

BINGO: Willards VFC, Thurs., 7 p.m., Lions Bldg., 410-835-8678; Pittsville VFC, Fri., 7 p.m. 410-835-2323; Fedsbg. VFW, Thurs., 7:20 p.m. 410-754-5020; Hurlock Legion, Fri., 7:30 p.m., 410-943-8205; Denton Legion, Tues., 6 p.m., 410-479-2708; Redmen, Fruitland, Mon., 6:30 p.m. 410-742-6859; Willards Lions, Tues., 7 p.m. 410-835-2328; Denton VFC, Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Holy Saviour Ch., 17th St./Ocean Hwy., Ocean City, Fri., 7-10. 410-524-7004; Ocean City Elks 2645, Wed., 5:30, 410-250-2645

MUSIC: Peninsulaires, Tues. 7:30 p.m., Salisbury Univ., Fulton Hall #130, 410-251-0780; Ocean Bay Sweet Adelines, Mon., 7 p.m., Temple Beth Israel, 410-749-1194; Delmarva Sweet Adelines, Mon., 7 p.m., Ocean Pines Comm. Ctr. 410-641-6876; QA Barbershop, Wed., 6:30 p.m., Ches. Coll., Wye Mills. 410-827-7993; Bay Country Chorus, Mon., 7 p.m., Miller Hall, behind Trinity Cathedral, Easton. 410-770-8262; Worcester Chorale, Wed., 7 p.m., Comm. Church, Rt. 589, Ocean Pines. 410-208-1999; E. Shore Bluegrass Assn., show/jam, 2nd Sun., 1 p.m., Marydel Fire Co. 302-674-3149 or 492-1048

VETS: Vietnam Vets., 1st Thurs., 7 p.m., Easton VFW, 410-943-1374, 3rd Thurs., VFW 194, Salisbury, 410-651-0904; Dis. Amer. Vets #34, 4th Thurs., 1 p.m., VFW 194, Salisbury. 410-749-4518

Chesapeake Christian Riders CMA 453, 1st Thurs, Bob Evans Restaurant, Easton, 6 p.m. 410-943-8325

Mid-Shore A.B.A.T.E., 2nd Thurs., 7:30 p.m., Easton VFW. www.mid-shoreabate.com

CANCER SUPPORT: Women Supporting Women, 3rd Wed., 7 p.m., 213 Atlantic Bus. Ctr., Berlin, 410-641-2849, 1st Thur., 7-8:30 p.m., 106 W. Circle Ave., #101, Salisbury, 410-548-7880; Shore Reg. Cancer Ctr., Easton, pre-register. 1-888-806-0756, patients & survivors, Thurs., 5 p.m., Daytimers, 1st/3rd Wed., 10:30 p.m., family and caregivers, 1st/3rd Wed., 5:30-7;

Brain Tumor Awareness, 3rd Tues, Comm. Found. Eastern Shore, Salisbury, 6:30. 410-443-1342; Lymphedema group, 2nd Tues., 11-noon, Avery Hall Ed. Ctr., PRMC. 410-548-7880

SELF-HELP: Denton AA, 105 Gay St., Thurs., 8 p.m.; Co-Dependents, Sun., 6:30 p.m., Christ UMC, Salisbury, 410-376-0164; Dual Recovery, Wor. Lib., Pocomoke, Mon., 7 p.m.; Overeaters, Sat., 10 a.m., Christ UMC, Salisbury, 410-376-0164, Thur., 5 p.m., Buckingham Presb., 20 S. Main, Berlin. 410-629-0679, Mon. 5:15 p.m., Health Ed., Mem. Hosp., Easton, Fri. noon, St. Mark's UMC, Easton. 410-820-0006; TOPS, Tues., 6 p.m., Wor. Health Dept.; Thurs., 7 p.m., Christ UMC, Salisbury, 410-546-4197/543-9039; Church of God, Easton, 6 p.m. 410-822-2630/673-2248

SINGLES CLUBS: Widows & Widowers, 3rd Tues., 2:15 p.m., The Woodlands at Ocean Pines, lunch 1 p.m., 410-208-0430; Beach Singles 45+, last Tues, 6 p.m. 410-208-3974; Delmarva Singles 50+, 1st Wed., 6 p.m. 410-742-8310; Activity Singles Klub, Easton, 2nd Wed., 410-822-7468

Nat'l Assn. Active/Retired Fed. Empl. 1261, Salisbury area, 3rd Thurs., 410-896-2671; Wor. Co. 2274, 4th Thurs., Jordan's Rooftop, OC, 11:30 a.m., 410-641-5570

BRIDGE: Riverside Homes, Salisbury, Mon., 7 p.m., 410-835-8343; Tred Avon, Wed., 11:30 a.m., Talbot Co. Sr. Ctr., Easton, 410-226-5126; Ocean Pines, Wed., OPCC, 9:45 a.m. 410-641-7667

O. Pines Camera Club, 2nd Mon., 7 p.m., library. 410-208-2555

U. of Md. Cooperative Extension Service Master Gardeners Plant Clinic, Ocean Pines Library, Tues., 1-4. 410-641-5570

Friends of Ocean Pines Library, 2nd Mon., 10 a.m., 410-208-2760

SEND EVENTS: Shore Good to Know, Choptank Electric, P.O. Box 430, Denton, MD 21629; or annew@choptankelectric.coop two months prior to event if possible. Please include phone number.

Writers Bloc, 3rd Sat., Rm. 3, Wic. Co. Library, Salisbury, 1 p.m.

Sons of Confederate Vets Maj. Gen. Arnold Elzey Camp 1940, friends, 1st Wed., 7 p.m., Wic. Library, Salisbury. 410-641-9305

Preston Vol. Fire Co., AUCE breakfast, 1st Sun., 7-10, \$6.

S/Sgt. Cohee Detachment/Marine Corps League, 2nd Wed., 7, American Legion, Post 64, Salisbury. 410-341-4616

United Fitness Class, free, Mon., Wed., Fri., chair exercise, 9:30-10, Mt. Hermon UM Church. 410-548-9436

Free beginner's knitting class, 3rd Tues., 1-2, Women Supporting Women, 106 W. Circle Ave., Suite 101, Salisbury.

Heartland Quilt Guild, 1st Thurs., 7 p.m., Choptank Electric district office, Denton. 410-820-5192

Military families, Delmarva Blue Star Mothers, 2nd Sat., 2 p.m., locations TBA. 410-438-2911 or 410-376-0354

Star Charities, All Volunteers in Action, 1st Fri., 10 a.m., Ocean Pines Library. 410-641-7667

Eastern Shore Stamp Club, 1st Tues., 6:30 p.m. Wicomico Co. Public Library, main library, Salisbury. 410-208-2929

MD Children's Health Program, Families & Children Program, Primary Adult Care program, all income-based, Kent Co. 410-778-7039; QA Co., 410-758-0720; Tal. Co. 410-819-5690.

Parkinsons Support Group, 2nd Thur., 1:30 p.m., Woodlands & Catered Living, 1135 Ocean Pkwy. 410-208-9001, 641-0539.

Nat'l Outdoor Show, S. Dorchester School, Golden Hill, Feb. 26, 5 p.m., Feb. 27, 10:30 a.m. 410-397-8535 nationaloutdoorshow.org

Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion Bridal Showcase, Feb. 28, 1-5 p.m., vendors, silent auction. Cost \$5/person; bring nonperishable food or personal care item for Joseph House Food Bank.

Artworks, 306 Park Row, Chestertown, showcases a variety of images of Chestertown in its downtown gallery in March. Reception Mar. 5, 5-8 pm. Regular hours Wed.- Fri. 12-3, Sat. 9-3. 410-778-6300 or www.artworkschestertown.org.

Friday Nites in Caroline, Denton library, 7 p.m.: Mar. 5, NCHS Thespians; Mar. 12, Kusnik Trio, classical; Mar. 19, Iona Quartet, pan music.

Landscape Design Workshop, Adkins Arboretum, Ridgely, Mar. 13, 8:30-4:30, pre-register 410-634-2847 ext. 0, info@adkinsarboretum.org. \$65 members; \$75 public.

Blue Jeans Ball, benefits Caroline Hospice Foundation, Mar. 20, 8-12 p.m., Caroline Post 29, Am. Legion, 9238 Legion Rd., Denton. Tickets \$10/person; silent auction. Tix: 410-479-3500

St. Dennis Church Hall, Bluegrass, 154 N. Main St., Galena, Mar. 21, Walt Crider & "Old Time Way", 1-5 p.m., \$10, 12-18 yrs. \$5, under 12 free. Food. Pickers welcome. 410-648-5366

Mid-Atlantic Symphony concert, Mar. 21, 3 p.m., Community Church, Rt. 589, Ocean Pines. 888-846-8600; Tix \$29.75.

AARP Tax-Aide for low- & middle-income taxpayers, especially age 60+, Feb. 1 - April 15. Appts. preferred. **Caroline:** Library, 100 Market St., Denton, Mon. 5-7 pm. Tues. 12-3:30 pm. Appts. 410-479-1343; Library, 123 Morris Ave., Federalsburg, Mon. 12-5 pm. Appts. 410-754-8397; Library, 100 Cedar St., Greensboro, Thurs. 3-6 pm. Appts. 410-482-2173. **Kent:** Bd. of Ed., 215 Washington St., Chestertown, Tues. 9 am-3 pm, Sat. 9 am-1 pm. Appts. call Tues., Thurs. or Fri., 410-778-2564. **QA:** Kramer Sr. Ctr., 104 Powell St., Centreville, Fridays 9:30 am-3 pm, closed April 2. Open April 5, 9:30 am-3 pm. Appts. 410-758-0848. Sr. Ctr., 4802 Main St., Grasonville, Tues. 8:30 am-4 pm. Appts. 410-758-0848. Sudlersville Sr. Ctr., days & time TBA. Appts. 410-438-3159. Kent Is. Sr. Ctr., 891 Love Point Rd., Fri. 9 am-3 pm. Closed April 2. Open April 1, 9 am-3 pm. Appts. 410-604-3801. **Talbot:** Fire Dept., 315 Aurora Park Ave., Easton, Thurs. 9 am-3 pm. Appts. 9-5 pm, 410-822-1444. Municipal Services, 101 Market St., Oxford, Fri. 9:30-11:30 am by appt. only, call 410-226-5122. Talbot Library, 106 Fremont St., St. Michaels, Fri. 9:30-1:30 pm. Closed April 2. Appts., 9- 5 pm, 410-822-1444