From the Board Room

At their Feb. 6 meeting, the Board took action to amend, revise and delete the following policies.

Policy 701: Meter Testing - Amend
Because there are no longer any mechanical meters in use, and digital meters are not able to be recalibrated after the manufacturing process, single phase meters will be tested as follows: The manufacturer’s test results will be retained by the Cooperative for the life of the meter. Five percent of all new meters will be tested before they are field installed. Before a meter is reinstalled for use it will be tested by Co-op staff. The maximum deviation from 100 percent accurate allowed before a meter is deemed to be out of calibration is one-half percent. All primary instrument-rated meters will be tested at intervals of not more than four years.

Administrative Policy 701A: Member Requested Meter Testing – Amend
The change to this policy was to add language to clarify the terms of the current policy.

Administrative Policy 701B – Revise
This policy was revised to be applicable to single-phase and three-phase meters. The deviation from 100 percent when a member’s bill will be recalculated for metering errors is reduced from 5 percent to 2 percent. The period of time when the billing will be corrected and amounts refunded is changed from one year. If the date of the failure of the meter to accurately record energy or demand can be determined, the bill recalculation period shall be the lesser of the date of the occurrence or four years. If the period of time when the metering inaccuracy occurred cannot be established with reasonable certainty, the billing shall be recalculated for one-half of the time the meter was installed or since the last meter test, whichever is later to a maximum of two years.

Administrative Policy 701C: Three-Phase Meter Testing - Delete
Based on action taken by the Board to revise Policy 701B, this policy was deleted.

Policy 702 Stopped Meters – Revise
This policy was revised and renamed Non-Functioning and Stopped Meters. When a member knowingly or unknowingly powers down a subtractive instrument-rated off-peak meter, there will be no adjustment or recalculation of the member’s bill for the period of time the meter was powered down. The billing recalculation period for non-functioning and stopped meters was approved as exists in Administrative Policy 701B.

Evergreen Home program promotes renewable energy development

Since 1998, SCEC members have had the opportunity to support renewable energy without the expense of owning and maintaining their own solar array, wind or methane generator.

Through the Evergreen program, members can spend as little as $1.50 per month to support and expand the use of renewable energy by SCEC’s wholesale power provider, Dairyland Power Cooperative. Each $1.50 monthly payment equals a 100 kWh block in renewable energy.

“For a minimal fee each month, members can purchase enough Evergreen blocks to off-set their home’s electricity use,” SCEC Member Services Manager Nick Rude said. “We’ll be monitoring subscriptions at St. Croix Electric and annually recognize those members who achieve an ‘Evergreen Home’ status.”

If a member is interested in becoming an Evergreen Home, SCEC will take the member’s annual electricity use, averaged into a monthly total, to determine the number of blocks needed to become an Evergreen Home. For example, if a member has a monthly average of 1,050 kWh, they could spend $16.50 for 11 Evergreen blocks of 100 kWh each, thus off-setting their electricity consumption with renewable energy. It is a precedent many large companies, such as Google and Amazon are striving for: 100 percent renewable.

“Dairyland keeps track the number of Evergreen blocks sold and will continue to acquire power purchase agreements from renewable energy sources to ensure there are enough blocks of renewable energy for any of our members who want to participate,” Rude said.

Members do not own the generation sources of their blocks, but once a block is reserved by an Evergreen participant, no other participant can be assigned that block. Each block makes a difference and supports renewable energy. For more information, contact Rude at nickr@scecnet.net or 715-796-7000. Members can enroll online at www.scecnet.net, Rebates & Programs, Evergreen.

Sunflower II
Crews returning in March

According to Sunflower II developer SoCore Energy, of Chicago, crews are scheduled to return to the Sunflower II site in March to finish construction. The 2.34 megawatt solar array (2,340,000 watts) is located in the Town of Warren and is one of 15 utility solar arrays constructed in Dairyland Power Cooperative’s service territory in 2016-17. Combined, the projects will add 20 MW of solar generation to DPC’s generation portfolio. DPC is the wholesale power provider for 24 distribution cooperatives in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois.