

# What's Current



The Powerful Choice

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## Another Special Cash Back Return



The NOVEC Board of Directors authorized another special Cash Back return of approximately \$5.8 million to be distributed to customers as a credit on their July 2006 billing statements. This distribution will be to current customers who were on the NOVEC system anytime between 1987 through 2004.

This is the second special Cash Back return this year; \$6.1 million was distributed to customers in June 2006.



## Help Operation Round Up Gear Up for Winter

**Are you enrolled in NOVEC's Operation Round Up (ORU) program?** If not, summer is the perfect time to join, as we begin accumulating funds to help local families in need pay their heating bills next winter. During the 2005-2006 heating season, ORU distributed \$46,000 through local social service agencies to NOVEC customers who had trouble paying their heating bills.

By authorizing NOVEC to "round up" your monthly electric bill to the next higher dollar, you can help your fellow NOVEC customers stay warm. For example, if your bill (before any credits, late fees or other charges are added) is \$69.54, it is rounded up to \$70.00 and the extra 46 cents are contributed to the ORU Fund. The amount "rounded up" on your bill averages a total of \$6 per year. Each month the amount you contribute to ORU is shown on your billing statement.

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## NOVEC Annual Meeting In New Location

*2006 NOVEC Annual Meeting  
Wednesday, September 27, 2006\**  
*6 p.m. - dinner*

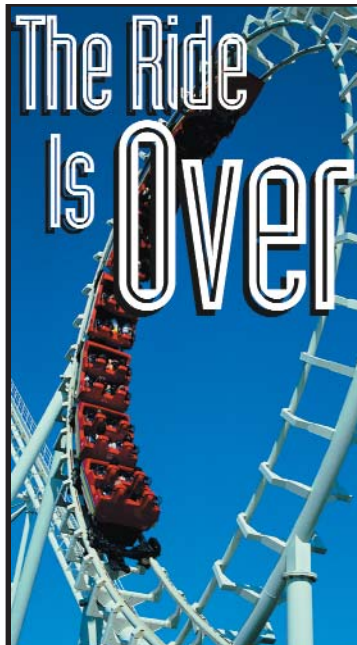
*7:30 p.m. - business meeting  
Battlefield High School  
1500 Graduation Drive  
Haymarket, VA 20169*

*\*Inclement weather date: Wednesday, October 25*

Due to renovations at Stonewall Jackson High School, the 2006 NOVEC Annual Meeting will be held at Battlefield High School in Haymarket. In late August, all current NOVEC customers will be mailed an annual meeting information packet, including a proxy voting form and directions.

### *Need Help Understanding Your NOVEC Bill?*

A new "Understanding Your NOVEC Bill" flyer is available at [www.novec.com](http://www.novec.com), or call the customer service center at (703) 335-0500 or (888) 335-0500 to request a copy.



If natural gas prices have left you in a lurch, it's time to call NOVEC Energy Solutions (NES). NES, a wholly owned subsidiary of NOVEC, offers low, one year fixed price contracts for natural gas supply. By locking in a fixed price for natural gas supply, you can avoid large fluctuations in your monthly natural gas bills.

Lock in now, and enjoy the peace of mind of knowing that no matter how volatile natural gas prices may become, you will be protected.

**NOVEC Energy Solutions**  
*the neighborhood expert*

For More Information:

[www.novecenergysolutions.com](http://www.novecenergysolutions.com) • (703) 392-1663,  
(888) 627-7283 or send e-mail to [NES@novec.com](mailto:NES@novec.com)

## Join Operation Round Up!

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You can also make additional ORU contributions by writing in the extra amount on your billing statement (in the box marked *Additional ORU*) and including this amount with your payment. You must indicate that the extra money goes to ORU or it will appear as a credit on your account.

**To register for Operation Round Up**, send e-mail to [customerservice@novec.com](mailto:customerservice@novec.com) with your NOVEC account number, complete name on the account and address. Or, call the customer service center at (703) 335-0500 or (888) 335-0500.

### Were You Dropped from ORU?

When a NOVEC bill payment is received even one day past the due date, a customer's participation in ORU ends. Please check to be sure your ORU amount is still being deducted. If you've been dropped from the ORU program, please contact NOVEC to re-enroll.



## Stealing Electricity is Dangerous & Illegal

The theft of electricity by customers is an ongoing problem for NOVEC. Stealing electricity is a Class 1 misdemeanor and is punishable either by jail time, a fine or both. The guilty party is also required to pay all of NOVEC's expenses related to the case, such as investigation labor time, estimated electricity usage and meter repair costs.

*Not only is electricity theft against the law, it's dangerous.* Stealing electricity poses serious safety hazards, such as electrocution, fires and sending electricity coursing back through a power line, which could endanger nearby linemen.

If you suspect that electricity theft is taking place in your neighborhood, call NOVEC at (703) 335-0500 or toll-free (888) 335-0500.



All NOVEC meters are protected with a tag that reads, "unlawful to cut or break seal." In addition, the meter base may have a sticker stating that tampering with or stealing electricity is illegal.

## Right-of-Way Maintenance Explained

NOVEC believes the most reliable and cost effective right-of-way maintenance program is a proactive one. The continual trimming of trees that grow into electric wires is a costly component of any electric distribution system. However, the alternative – not trimming trees – is even more costly. Once a tree falls onto or grows into an overhead electric wire, it's too late for proactive measures since the tree has most likely already caused a power outage. Our goal is to eliminate as many preventable tree-related power outages as possible and help stem the rising costs associated with tree trimming operations.

For the past 20 years NOVEC has implemented a cyclical tree maintenance program. Contractors trim or remove trees under or along our overhead lines where necessary, clearing every mile of right of way on our overhead system every three years. Trees that are closer than 10 feet to our power lines are trimmed back and potentially dangerous, dead or decayed trees are removed if they pose a threat. In addition, crews apply environmentally friendly herbicides to small brush trees to eliminate them from the right of way and encourage low-growing ground cover that won't affect overhead facilities.

Property owners are not allowed to plant trees that have mature heights taller than 15 feet within NOVEC's overhead rights of way. This eliminates "growing" more trees on our system that will later have to be trimmed due to their

proximity to wires. Improper tree species that have been recently planted must be removed or moved outside the right-of-way area.

Homeowners are encouraged to allow the removal of older trees located directly under overhead wires. These trees may be replaced by property owners with lower growing species that will never require trimming.

All these methods help NOVEC slowly shift the composition in our rights of way from trees that must be continually trimmed, to ground cover and low-growing tree species which require little attention. Please help us in our efforts by selecting the proper trees when planting anywhere near overhead lines. For more information contact NOVEC's Right-of-Way Department at (703) 392-1661, (888) 335-0500, extension 1661 or visit the right-of-way section of our Web site at [www.novec.com/rightofway.cfm](http://www.novec.com/rightofway.cfm).



By applying selective herbicides in NOVEC rights of way, woody fast-growing brush is eliminated and replaced by low-growing grasses, berries and wildflowers.



What's Current is produced by the NOVEC Public Relations Department for Cooperative customers. If you would like additional information or if you have suggestions for future articles, please contact: NOVEC PR, P.O. Box 2710, Manassas, VA 20108 or send e-mail to: [ssmarrelli@novec.com](mailto:ssmarrelli@novec.com).