

What's Current

NOVEC

The Powerful Choice

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Annual Meeting To Be Held at Battlefield High

Nominations Being Accepted for NOVEC Board

Change is in the air for NOVEC's Annual Meeting this year. Due to renovations at Stonewall Jackson High School, the 2006 NOVEC Annual Meeting will be held at Battlefield High School in Haymarket. In August, current NOVEC customers will be mailed an annual meeting information packet, including a proxy voting form and directions.

**2006 NOVEC Annual Meeting
September 27, 2006**

6 p.m. - dinner

7:30 p.m. - business meeting

Battlefield High School

15000 Graduation Drive

Haymarket, VA 20169

of Rt. 66). Two incumbents are seeking re-election to these positions. Manley Garber is seeking to continue representing District 7 and Cynthia Gilbride is up for re-election for District 9.

As detailed in the NOVEC Bylaws, "Nominations for directors shall be made by any 15 or more members in writing over

Board Elections

As a NOVEC customer, you are considered a member-owner and as such you have the opportunity to participate in elections for the NOVEC Board of Directors. At this year's annual meeting, two people will be elected to serve four-year terms on the Board. If you can't attend the meeting, you can use the proxy form to designate another person to vote on your behalf.

Nominations Now Being Accepted

This year, customers will elect members to fill the board of director positions for District 7 (Woodbridge, Dale City & Montclair area) and District 9 (the area of Fairfax County west

their signatures, said written nomination petitions to be delivered to the office of the president/CEO not less than 70 days prior to the next annual meeting." This means that all nomination petitions must be received at our corporate office no later than close of business on Wednesday, July 19 (mail to: Stan Feuerberg, NOVEC president/CEO, PO Box 2710, Manassas, VA 20108). To obtain a nomination petition, call (703) 335-0500 or (888) 335-0500.



Look for Your Special Cash Back Return This Month

The NOVEC Board of Directors recently authorized a special Cash Back return of approximately \$6.1 million to be distributed this month. Customers will receive their Cash Back returns as a credit on their June 2006 billing statements. This distribution will be to current customers who were on the NOVEC system anytime between 1987 through 2004.



Offices Closed July 4

All NOVEC offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4 so our employees may enjoy the holiday. Power outages can still be reported at (888) 335-0500.



Two Thin Dimes Dry One Full Load of Laundry

The Value of Electricity. The best value in energy today is at your fingertips. NOVEC, your customer-owned electric cooperative, delivers power when and where you need it and at delivery rates that haven't changed in 14 years. So, while we encourage you to conserve, we invite you to enjoy. That's the value of power from the region's most reliable electric utility.



Based on all minutes of charging time.

Summer Vacation Energy-Saving Tips

You might think that when you're on vacation, your electric bill should be lower than usual. This is not necessarily true; your electric meter never goes on vacation. Appliances like the refrigerator, freezer and water heater run normally even when you're not home. However, if you take a few simple steps, you can control your home's energy use while you're away.



Air conditioner: If you don't have pets or plants that need cool air, turn your air conditioner thermostat to the "off" mode. Or, set the thermostat to a higher-than-normal temperature (80 F-85 F) to help maintain humidity levels while still conserving energy.

Also, be sure to lower shades and/or close curtains to protect your home from excessive heat.

Water heater: Turn off your electric water heater at the circuit breaker or fuse box. Make a note to yourself as a reminder to turn it back on when you return home. It takes about 45 minutes for water to heat.

If you have a gas water heater, set the temperature dial to the VAC (vacation) setting. If you don't have this setting, turn the thermostat as low as it will go — but don't turn it completely off. If you do, you'll have to re-light the pilot light when you get home, and with most water heaters this requires a service call from a professional.

With either type of water heater, it's not necessary to drain the water from the tank.

Refrigerator: A refrigerator is usually one of the biggest energy-wasters while you're on vacation. If you'll be gone for several weeks, empty out the food and unplug it. If that's not

practical, get rid of easily spoiled items like milk and yogurt, and turn up the thermostat a notch or two. You can raise the internal temperature to 42 F and still keep your food safe.

The same advice applies to the freezer. Remove fast-melting foods like ice cream, and raise the temperature a few degrees. Meats and vegetables will remain solidly frozen if the freezer temperature is at 5 F or below.

Other appliances: Before you leave, take a few minutes to turn off and unplug any appliance or electronic device that doesn't need to stay on. Many items like microwave ovens, computers and especially televisions draw power even when they're not being used.

Unplugging appliances will also help prevent damage in case of a storm or power surge. Don't forget to unplug bigger items like your washer and dryer.

Safety and security: Be sure to give your house that lived-in look while you're away. It's always a good idea to have a motion detector light outdoors and use a timer on an indoor light. Look for a timer that can be set to a random pattern so the lights don't turn on and off at exactly the same times every day. No matter how short your vacation, have a neighbor collect your mail and newspapers.

Herbicide Application Crews Working on Rights of Way

Contract crews began applying foliar herbicide to brush growing within NOVEC rights of way during the week of May 22. Herbicides are usually applied by a contractor wearing a backpack sprayer.

The applicator targets any fast-growing brush growing under our overhead lines such as poplar, oak, maple, sumac, atlantis, locust and beech. The herbicide eliminates these unwanted species and encourages lower growing grasses, weeds and shrubs. Vines and brush growing on poles and guy wires are also targeted.

The lower-growing material that thrives in our rights of way after the unwanted brush is removed never needs trimming and allows easier access to our lines for inspections or repairs. The long-term effects of these applications are wildlife-friendly rights of way with lower maintenance costs due to less tree trimming and tree removals.

Applicators from Osmove, Inc. are currently applying herbicide in the areas around Route 605 and Vint Hill Road between Warrenton and Gainesville. Applicators from Penn Line Services, Inc. are working in the Stafford area. Both

contractors will be using Accord/Arsenal or Krenite/Arsenal spray mixes, depending on the type of brush they encounter. The only noticeable effect of this work should be the browning of leaves on targeted plants several weeks after the application.

NOVEC uses herbicides as part of ongoing efforts to control woody brush near utility lines. The use of herbicides is an environmentally friendly form of brush control, since it does not involve disturbing the surrounding ground and only eliminates the targeted brush species, leaving the remaining right of way untouched.

For more information about herbicide use at NOVEC visit www.novec.com/rightofway.cfm and click on "herbicide application."



Backpack sprayers are used to apply herbicides to targeted areas within NOVEC rights of way.



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.