

What's Current

NOVEC

The Powerful Choice

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Board Approves \$12.2 Million Cash Back Return

For the 13th consecutive year, NOVEC's solid financial standing has allowed the Board of Directors to approve a regular Cash Back distribution. This month, a total of \$12.2 million is being refunded to current and former customers who were on the NOVEC system anytime between 1987 and 2005. This regular return is in addition to the \$17.4 million in special Cash Back that was distributed to current customers earlier this year.

Current customers will receive the Cash Back credit on their September electric bill. Former customers will receive a check.

What is CASH BACK?

Cash Back is a unique benefit you enjoy as a cooperative customer. As a not-for-profit business, NOVEC allocates to

NOVEC has returned nearly \$30 million to customers in 2006.

customers any revenue that is received over and above the cost of doing business. This extra revenue (or margins) is proportionately allocated to and held in a Cash Back account for each customer. NOVEC retains some of the margins to provide

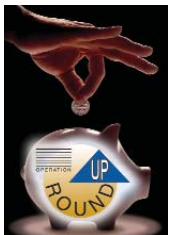
funding for the growth and maintenance of our electric distribution system and for extreme emergency service restoration.

2006 NOVEC Annual Meeting
Wednesday, September 27
 6:00 p.m. – dinner
 7:30 p.m. – business meeting

Battlefield High School
 15000* Graduation Drive
 Haymarket, VA 20169

(Inclement weather date: Wednesday, October 25)

* Note: the address is 15000, not 1500 as reported last month.



Join Operation Round Up and Help Others Stay Warm This Winter

By joining NOVEC's Operation Round UP (ORU) program, you can help local families

in need pay their winter heating bills. Last year, customers donated \$46,000 to ORU, which was distributed to more than 620 local families through social service agencies. With forecasters predicting higher fuel costs for this winter, social service agencies are expecting an increased need for assistance.

When you join ORU, you authorize NOVEC to "round up" your monthly bill to the next higher dollar. For example, if your bill is \$69.54, it is rounded up to \$70 and the extra 46 cents is contributed to ORU. Your ORU contribution is shown each month on your statement. You can also make additional contributions by writing in the extra amount on your statement in the section marked "additional ORU contribution" and include this extra amount with your payment.

NOVEC absorbs all administrative costs of ORU, so 100 percent of all contributions go directly to the needs of the community.

You can register for ORU in two convenient ways:

► Send e-mail to customerservice@novec.com with your NOVEC account number, name on the account and address.

► Call the customer service center at (703)335-0500 or (888) 335-0500.

Are You Eligible for State-funded Fuel Assistance?

The Virginia Department of Social Services has a fuel assistance program to help eligible households with home heating expenses. To find out if you are eligible or to apply, visit www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/ea/fuel/index.html or call (804) 726-7000 or toll-free (800) 552-3431. You can also visit your local Department of Social Services office. Applications are accepted from the second Tuesday in October through the second Friday in November.



More Information on Uniforms

As reported last month, most field employees wear uniforms clearly identifying them as NOVEC representatives. However, some field employees don't wear a uniform, but they will have a NOVEC identification badge. It's most important to remember that NOVEC employees and contractors usually have no reason to enter a customer's home unless previously scheduled by the customer.

The Blink Means Everything is Working!

We've all experienced it: coming home or waking up to a blinking digital display on an alarm clock, VCR or microwave oven. The blinking clock simply means that power has been momentarily interrupted.

Before digital clocks and other high-tech equipment, we seldom noticed these momentary outages. Today, our homes and offices are filled with sensitive equipment that is affected by the slightest interruption in power.

Blinking clocks mean NOVEC's protective equipment is working

Special devices, called reclosers protect electric lines and keep the power from going off for more than just a moment. These reclosers operate whenever there is a short circuit (fault) on the line. For example, if a small animal or tree limb momentarily touches the power line, service is automatically interrupted to protect the system. If the fault is temporary, which is usually the case, the recloser permits power to resume flowing through the line with only a brief interruption of power.

Without the reclosers, every short circuit, temporary or



Blinking clocks mean NOVEC's protective equipment is working.

otherwise, would cause the power to be off until NOVEC could send a crew to restore service. The reclosers will usually operate or "trip" three times before stopping the flow of electricity and causing an extended power outage. This recloser operation protects power lines from damage and allows the supply

of electricity to continue to your home with only a momentary interruption instead of a lengthy power outage.

Protect against blinks

To help prevent blinking displays in your home or business, test digital clocks, televisions, VCRs and microwave ovens before you purchase them. Unplug the item for a couple of seconds to determine if it can ride through short power interruptions and maintain the time and other information stored in memory. You can also buy electronic clocks and appliances with battery-backup features.

To eliminate the inconvenience of blinks when working on your computer, purchase and install an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) on the electrical outlet that supplies your computer. This will help eliminate the possibility of losing data if you are working on the computer when a blink occurs.

Right-of-way Easement Landscaping Standards

When planting trees or doing other landscaping, customers must be aware of NOVEC's updated right-of-way easement requirements. In order to maintain the electrical system that provides your home or business with power, we must have safe, adequate access to all equipment. To help us provide you with continuous, reliable power please follow these guidelines when landscaping on your property. If you have any questions, contact the right-of-way department at (703) 392-1661, (888) 335-0500, extension 1661 or send e-mail to novecrightofway@novec.com.

General easement requirements

- ✓ All trees and shrubs must be removed within the full width of the easement prior to initial construction of overhead or underground lines.
- ✓ No new plant material may be placed in the easement as part of a county or municipality-required landscaping buffer.
- ✓ No new trees are to be planted within the easement, only turf grasses or ground cover.
- ✓ NOVEC may remove all plant material, if required, for access to the electric system, but such material will not be replaced by NOVEC.

Underground system easement requirements

A limited quantity of shrubbery or plant material may be planted within the easement, which is 15 feet wide, but with the following restrictions:

Underground Cable

- ✓ No plant material closer than five feet from existing

NOVEC cable (as identified by red Miss Utility markings), or if no cable exists at the time, no plant material may be planted inside the edge of the easement.

Pad-mounted equipment in green metal boxes

- ✓ No plant material closer than 10 feet in front of the doors and no closer than five feet on the other sides – see label on the green enclosures for details.

Underground equipment with surface-mounted lid

- ✓ No plant material closer than five feet on all sides.

Meter bases

- ✓ No plant material closer than one and one-half (1-1/2) feet from the sides of the meter base, and three feet from the front, up to a height of seven feet above the ground.

Overhead system easement requirements

Overhead easements have a minimum width of 30 feet and will be maintained so that a minimum clearance of 10 feet is preserved between the electrical line and any part of a tree.



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.