

Choptank
Fiber



Choptank Electric
Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative



OCTOBER 2022

- 17** Seven Co-op Principles
- 18** Preventative Maintenance
- 21** Bob Arnold Receives NRECA Gold Credentials

ABOVE Our electric safety demonstration put on by Chuck Dean, Allen Slaughter and Jennifer LeKites was well received at the Caroline / Dorchester County Fair.

P.O. Box 430 | Denton, MD | 21629

Toll-Free: 1-877-892-0001

Outage Reporting: 1-800-410-4790

Automated Member Service: 1-866-999-4574

Remember to Vote!

By Matthew Tefteau, Manager of Government Affairs

The Primary Election in July proved that every vote counts, many local and statewide races came down to the wire. Choptank Electric Cooperative is proud to be a 2022 5-Star Co-op Vote program awardee. Being a Co-op voter is critical to our rural communities.

The political interests of a Co-op are, by definition, the interests of its membership. It remains important by exercising our right to vote this Election Day, we send a strong message to candidates at all levels that they must put rural



America's concerns front and center. Please be sure to register and Vote this November.

For more information visit: www.elections.maryland.gov



SCAN FOR MD ELECTION SITE

GENERAL ELECTION DAY is November 8, early voting is October 27 - November 3.

Choptank Electric Seeks Your Input On Energy Policy Standards

On November 15, 2021, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was signed into law. Among other things, the Act established two new federal standards under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA) Section 111(d). Section 111(d) requires covered electric utilities to consider the new standards and make a determination concerning whether or not it is appropriate to implement each standard. The full text of the law can be found online at <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/16/chapter-46> or a copy may be

requested from the Cooperative by calling 1-877-892-0001 and asking for the Legal Department.

Pursuant to the law, this serves as official public notice of Cooperative members' opportunity to comment on the standards and/or attend the hearing. If you wish to provide input, please send your comments in writing by January 15, 2023, to Choptank Electric Cooperative, Attn: General Counsel, P.O. Box 430, Denton, MD 21629.

A brief description of each standard is listed below. This is for informational

purposes only and is not meant to replace the full text of the law. The Cooperative's Board of Directors will conduct a hearing on October 18, 2023, at 5PM at its Denton District office located at 24820 Meeting House Road, Denton, MD 21629. At the hearing, Choptank's staff will introduce its report, all written comments will be considered, and members attending in person will have an opportunity to be heard. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Cooperative's Board will determine whether to implement the new standards. This determination will then be available to the public on the Cooperative's website.

SECTION 2621 PURPA 111(D) STANDARDS

20. Demand-Response Practices

(A) In general. Each electric utility shall promote the use of demand-response and demand flexibility practices by commercial, residential, and industrial consumers to reduce electricity consumption during periods of unusually high demand.

(B) Rate recovery. A nonregulated electric utility may establish rate mechanisms for the timely recovery of the costs of promoting demand-response and demand flexibility practices in accordance with subparagraph (A).

Current Co-op Activities: For certain rate classes, Choptank currently offers time-of-use rates and an opportunity to receive a monetary credit for load reduction during peak hours. More information can be found under our Terms & Conditions located at <https://choptankelectric.coop/rates>.

21. Electric Vehicle Charging Programs

Each State shall consider measures to promote greater electrification of the transportation sector, including the establishment of rates that:

(A) promote affordable and equitable electric vehicle charging options for residential, commercial, and public electric vehicle charging infrastructure;

(B) improve the customer experience associated with electric vehicle charging, including by reducing charging times for light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles;

(C) accelerate third-party investment in electric vehicle charging for light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles; and

(D) appropriately recover the marginal costs of delivering electricity to electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Current Co-op Activities: Choptank currently owns two public EV chargers: one in St. Michaels and one at the Harriet Tubman Museum in Dorchester County.



1 VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Membership in a cooperative is open to all people who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender or economic circumstances.



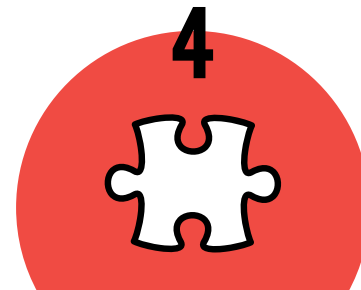
2 DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Representatives are elected among members and are accountable to them. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote); cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.



3 MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative; setting up reserves; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.



4 AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.



5 EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors/trustees), CEOs and employees help them effectively contribute to the development of their cooperatives. Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, help boost cooperative understanding.



6 COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

By working together through local, national, regional and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies and deal more effectively with social and community needs.



7 CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.

** If you would like to share what our co-op means to you, please send in your thoughts to: communications@choptankelectric.coop and we'll share it through social media all October!*

October is Co-op Month!
A celebratory review of our 7 Principles.



“Keeping our members’ lights on is a top priority. A proactive maintenance program has proven to be the most effective approach. We constantly patrol our lines and test our equipment looking for potential problems, making repairs as needed.”

- Curtis Short, Manager Regional Operations

Preventative Maintenance is Key

By Bobby Schaller, MultiMedia Manager

When it comes to reliability, preventative maintenance is key. It plays a very important role in the upkeep of our power grid. A solid preventative maintenance strategy is important for any large infrastructure or system. Take, for instance, the original bay bridge. The east bound span began construction in 1949, 73 years ago. I’m willing to bet the majority of us have sat in traffic on that bridge because of up-dates and maintenance. I’m also sure that none of us praised preventative maintenance while in traffic. There was no one saying ‘I sure am happy about this preventative

maintenance!’ Traffic is no fun, but it is a small price to pay considering what the bridge means to us.

Our operations team and lineworkers routinely perform preventative maintenance throughout the year. The photos that you see are from a particular job they did in the heat of July. This crew’s focus that morning was in south Dorchester County where they cleared rights-a-way, replaced 2 rotting poles, installed a switch and pulled tight some low spans of wire. All in the context of land where bucket trucks could not reach. Curtis Short, our Manager Regional Operations had this to

say, “Keeping our members’ lights on is a top priority. A proactive maintenance program has proven to be the most effective approach. We constantly patrol our lines and test our equipment looking for potential problems, making repairs as needed.”

We are never happy to tell our members about a planned outage at their home. Our members do a great job of playing a very important role as member owners. Reliably paying their bills, keeping updated on our co-op and we very much appreciate the thank you notes we receive. However, our members are the very reason we make

those phone calls as proactive maintenance can detect problems in advance, minimizing emergencies and improve equipment longevity. All of this reduces maintenance costs and, in turn, saves our members money and keeps them from unwanted extended outages.

Planned outages are a necessary part of bringing our members reliable and affordable electricity. We have 6,345 miles of line within our cooperative. With enough line to criss cross America two plus times, there is a lot of room for error. Poles end up rotting, equipment does have a lifespan and trees do end up falling. Our preventative maintenance program puts us ahead of the curve. We clear



rights-of-way, trim trees back, replace equipment and much more in the effort of keeping our infrastructure as strong as possible and the lights on. Keeping that in mind, we are proud to say that our reliability rating is 99.98%.



Notice of the 2023 Election of the Board of Directors

The deadline to deliver completed petitions is **December 21, 2022, by 4 p.m.**

In conjunction with the 2023 Annual Meeting of Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc. there will be held an election of directors for the districts of Cecil County, Talbot County, Somerset County and Ocean Pines.

If you are interested in being a candidate for one of these positions, please complete, sign, and deliver a 2023 Petition for Nomination of Candidate for Director by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21, 2022.

The completed petition must be delivered to the attention of the Credentials & Election Committee,

c/o Dawn Bowie, Choptank Electric Cooperative either: (a) by hand delivery or courier to the headquarters office, 10384 River Road, Denton, MD 21629; (b) by mail to P.O. Box 430, Denton, MD 21629; or (c) by email to Dawn Bowie at dawnb@choptankelectric.coop. Any applications received after Wednesday, December 21, 2022 will not be reviewed by the committee.

Members can find a copy of the 2023 Petition for Nomination of Candidate for Director and the Bylaws on our website at www.choptankelectric.coop

(choptankelectric.coop) (Member Benefits, Annual Meeting) or by calling our Member Service Center at 1-877-892-0001 and request a mailed copy.

Please review the Bylaws for additional requirements regarding Board of Director positions. The election results will be announced at the 2023 annual member meeting, which will be held on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at the Talbot County Community Center located at 10028 Ocean Gateway, Easton, MD 21601.



Bob Arnold Receives Gold Credential Committed to representing members

A National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Director Gold Credential recognizes directors who have already earned their Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) through NRECA and who wish to continue to learn throughout their service on the board. We are proud to say that our Board Member Bob Arnold, representing Queen Anne's County, has achieved that status.

"The Director Gold certificate is geared toward directors who are committed to continuing their education beyond CCD and BLC and

who desire a tangible credential that reinforces their stature as part of an experienced and educated group of directors," says Jeff Rathell, Board Chair. "Director Gold also demonstrates to co-op members a director's ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability," Rathell said.

For a director to earn the Director Gold certificate, they must have already earned the CCD and BLC and earn three additional credits from the BLC series of courses. Unlike the CCD and BLC certificates, Director Gold includes a continuing

education requirement which calls for directors to earn three credits of approved course work and/or conferences every two years to maintain their Director Gold status.

NRECA represents the nation's more than 900 private, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide electric service to more than 42 million people in 47 states. Choptank Electric Cooperative serves more than 55,000 members on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

For more information please visit www.electric.coop

Choptank Fiber

WE'RE BRINGING THE FUTURE
RIGHT DOWN YOUR ROAD

CAROLINE,
SOMERSET &
CECIL COUNTY
GRANT UPDATES

WWW.CHOPTANKFIBER.COM/LATEST-NEWS

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!
We will be closed November 24th and 25th



Choptank Electric Cooperative

Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Choptank Electric, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is a not-for-profit, member-owned, electric distribution Co-op serving approximately 55,500 residential, commercial, and industrial members in all nine counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

President and CEO

Micheal E. Malandro

Board of Directors

Jeffrey D. Rathell Sr.
Chairman, Talbot Co.

John J. Burke Jr.
Vice Chairman, Cecil Co.

Douglas D. Scott
Treasurer, Dorchester Co.

Robert E. Arnold
Secretary, Queen Anne's Co.

Amy I. Brandt
Caroline Co.

Olin S. Davis III
Kent Co.

Matthew R. Holloway
Wicomico Co.

Robert B. Thompson
Ocean Pines District

Donna R. West
Worcester Co.

Craig N. Mathies Sr.
Somerset Co.



Choptank Fiber, LLC

Choptank Fiber, LLC is a wholly-owned broadband subsidiary of Choptank Electric Cooperative. Choptank Fiber's goal is to install true Gigabit broadband with no data caps one community at a time until we serve all our members on the Eastern Shore.

To Those Who Work at Choptank Electric, Denton Md
I just want to say thank you for working so hard to keep our electric on so we can have comfort. I've been with you 45 years and I can count the times on one hand that we were really out of power. Thanks again I pray each day for your safety, health, & God Bless each of you. I'm so proud of Choptank Electric.
Patsy L. Nicholson

MEMBERS' NOTES

Our members are the reason Choptank Electric Cooperative exists. Thank you so much Patsy for this heartfelt note!

Choptank Electric Trust Awards

The Choptank Electric Trust is a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation funded by Operation Round Up donations from members of Choptank Electric. Funds from the Trust are distributed in all nine counties of Maryland's Eastern Shore.

August 2022

- Alpha Genesis Community – \$3,716
- Chesapeake Development Unit, Incorporated – \$3,000
- HomePorts, Incorporated – \$800
- Park Lane Church of God – \$1,000
- Women & Girls Fund of the Mid-Shore – \$2,562



The total of approved applications was \$25,697, which included \$14,619 for individual home and medical expenses.