

As October came on this year and the days are getting very noticeably shorter, I thought it would be a good idea to get the Six Mile Lake crossing lights working so people would have a safe line to follow when traveling across the lake on the ice in the dark. INNEC (your coop) purchased new LED light to place on the poles and hired lineman Don Henry to climb the poles and replace the lights. When Don climbed the pole on the Nondalton side of 6 Mile Lake, he discovered that someone had shot a hole in the transformer feeding the light and had also shot the insulator and cutout switch that operated the power going from the primary wires to the transformer. This totally ruined the transformer and cutout switch and in fact has effectively shut down any chance of having a light on the Nondalton side of the crossing for the foreseeable future.

I think some history of these lights would be in order.

Many years ago, possible around 1994 or 1995, Tory Olsen and Willy Cusma drowned in the river close to the Nondalton Fish Camp when they drove into the water while crossing in the dark. In memory of those two young fellows who had their lives cut short, the INNEC Board of Directors voted to install street lights on the riser poles on each side of 6 Mile Lake to give folks a beacon to follow when crossing the ice in the dark. These lights will almost always keep a traveler away from the open water that is so prevalent there in front of Fish Camp.

The transformers that feed these lights are a special built and special order item. They are not cheap. By the time we order, ship and replace the transformer and other equipment that was ruined by the vandal(s), it will probably cost your cooperative close to \$5,000.00 or \$6,000.00.

I am going to order a new transformer but chances of getting it here and installed by freeze-up are slim to none. Right now transformers and other specialty electrical equipment are a 12 weeks or more wait as they are built to order and with all the natural disasters happening in the United States, utilities snapping up everything in the way of electrical equipment as soon as it is available.

I would appreciate it if the word could be spread that these lights can make a difference between life, or death by drowning in the dark and why they are there. Having this kind of equipment shot up is absolutely unacceptable and everyone needs to make sure that it will not happen again. MEANWHILE, there is a very bright light on the east side of 6 Mile Lake that is working well and should serve as a good guide for traveling across the ice to the Iliamna side of 6 Mile Lake.

