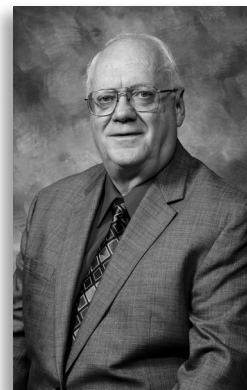


**Dan Hoskins**  
General manager

## A sit down with Minnkota Power Cooperative CEO David Loer



**David Loer**  
Minnkota president and CEO

There has been both good and bad news coming from Minnkota this year concerning the present and the future of generation, renewable energy, load control and wholesale rate costs. Minnkota is not only one of the leaders in renewable energy in our country, but Minnkota also is one of the more prominent leaders in load management. They are currently doing all of this and still remaining as one of the lowest wholesale energy suppliers in the nation.

I sat down with Minnkota President and CEO David Loer for a question and answer session recently.

***Well David, if you are ready, let's start with a couple of current situations. First, future generation; I believe that the Milton R. Young deal has been finalized with Minnesota Power. How does that affect our future energy levels and reliability?***

Dan, The Young 2 Deal was completed Dec. 30 with final closing Dec. 31. This is a deal that has been in the works for about two years and we are very happy to have it completed. With the deal, Minnkota will be assigned the Minnesota Power 50 percent allocation from the Square Butte owned Young 2 Station. The big benefit to Minnkota and the member-owners is the increased allocation from Young 2, which is relatively inexpensive. Even though the plant is 32 years old, it is in very good condition and generates electricity at a level equal to or greater than it did when it went on line in 1977. Minnkota operates Young 2, knows the plant well, and most importantly, it

is a plant that already exists and not one that needs to be permitted or built in order to be a reality. We are very happy with the Young 2 Deal, which is really a win/win situation between Minnkota and Minnesota Power.

***Did Minnesota Power strike this deal with Minnkota to help it satisfy the Minnesota Renewable Energy Mandate, or did it have other reasoning? Seems to me that if you had a good, reliable power plant, why would you want to get rid of it?***

We want to keep the plant, of course. Part of the Young 2 Deal that benefits Minnkota is the assignment of the Minnesota Power 50 percent entitlement of Young 2. What attracts Minnesota Power to this deal is the fact that it was able to purchase the direct current transmission line, that Square Butte also owns, from Square Butte in order to develop wind energy near the Young 2 Station. Minnesota Power will utilize the transmission line to bring the wind energy to near Duluth, Minn., its service area. Minnesota Power's interest in wind energy is primarily driven by the Minnesota Renewable Energy Mandate.

***Was this deal a big cost and how will this affect our wholesale rates?***

The cost of this deal to Minnkota will be a new 345-kV transmission line that will need to be built from Young 2 to our service area at a large substation near Grand Forks. This will be about a \$300 million transmission line. The benefits of the Young 2 Deal, primarily the benefits of the 50 percent assignment of the Minnesota Power allocation of Young 2 to Minnkota, is worth significantly more than the \$300 million cost of the transmission line. Overall, it will help control future wholesale rates when compared to what they would have been without the Young 2 Deal.



FEBRUARY 2010

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[www.northstarelectric.coop](http://www.northstarelectric.coop)

North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc.

### Mission Statement

*To improve the lives of our  
member-owners and community  
by responsibly providing electric  
energy and other beneficial services  
while maintaining the very highest  
standards of performance.*

### Members' corner

We are adding a section called the members' corner. What we would like is for members to send in questions about your electric Cooperative, and we will answer them for you. Please give us your name and a phone number in case we need to clarify the question, and send them to North Star Electric, PO Box 719, Baudette, MN, 56623, Attn: Wayne.

## A sit down with David Loer (continued)

*Is there a risk of additional costs or problems with this addition, such as more coal-fired regulations or more emission additions? The way our industry is going, seems to me that this could be another added cost.*

I think in the energy business, there are risks with whatever action we take or do not take. There is a risk that there may be regulations that will require the reduction of carbon dioxide, which, of course, is emitted by coal-fired power plants. Our assessment is that whatever course we take, our costs will increase. We believe that with more than 50 percent of the electricity in the United States coming from coal-fired power plants, it would be very difficult for Congress or the Administration to implement significant cost increasing regulations on carbon dioxide containment.

*Since we are on emissions, this is another current issue that is costing Minnkota millions of dollars. Would you mind explaining the EPA Consent Decree for our folks? What is it supposed to do and what it is going to cost?*

Your point is well taken, Dan. Minnkota is in the process of upgrading the emission reduction equipment at Young 1 and Young 2. These projects will be completed in 2011 and 2012. Unfortunately, they are very costly – something approaching \$400 million. It's particularly concerning because this new emission control equipment will not produce any additional kilowatt-hours. In fact, they are power-consuming facilities. In general, it will add about 25 percent to the cost of producing electricity at the two Young Stations.

*This brings us to the topic of renewable energy. I believe that almost 35 percent of Minnkota's power is renewable energy and comes from wind energy. Does this satisfy Minnkota's renewable mandate with Minnesota? Is there a cost here?*

You bring up a good point, Dan. Minnkota has been very aggressive in entering the wind energy market. In 2010, more than 30 percent of the energy required to serve our member-

## Highlights from the BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the Board of Directors meeting held on January 6, 2010. The board acted upon usual, routine business and voted to amend the collection fee, approve delegates, approve the 2010 Operating Budget and increase the reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for the vandalism of electric equipment near Happyland.

Staff reports included the financial report, reduced kWh sales, identity theft precautions, interest rate on security deposits, increasing past due bills, the outage management software, new off-peak accounts, energy conservation efforts, CIP (Conservation Improvement Program), Operation Round Up, load control being about the same as last year, AMR (automated meter reading) meter changeouts, safety training and continued increasing hours worked without a lost-time accident, new services, service upgrades, outages

and the Minnkota board meeting where extending the Temporary Wind Energy Surcharge from October 2010 to June 2011 was discussed, as well as a 5.0 percent wholesale rate increase was approved. Mailing minutes to members was discussed.

Minnkota delegate Arnesen and Square Butte delegate Bergan reported on their board meetings.

Detailed minutes are available at the cooperative for member review. Regular board meetings are generally held the first Wednesday of every month. If you wish to speak with the board, or have an item that you would like to have placed on the agenda, please contact manager Dan Hoskins at least one week in advance to be included on the agenda.

***During the February 3 board meeting, an 8.4 percent rate increase was approved, effective March 20.***

owners, such as North Star, will come from wind energy resources. We made the decision to enter the wind energy market with purchased power agreements from wind developers early, in order to get the best pricing long term and secure the best sites with existing transmission service. We have major contracts for buying wind power from the wind farm just south of Langdon, N.D. and just north of Valley City, N.D. We have invested in moderate amounts of transmission or generator outlet lines in order to deliver the energy to our system.

***What is the average capacity factor for all the wind power that Minnkota now has?***

One advantage that the North Dakota wind turbines have is their relatively high capacity factor. The capacity factor for the wind energy that Minnkota is purchasing is in excess of 40 percent. That is considered very good among the wind energy industry. North Dakota has pretty robust winds, which people who live in this part of the country know well.

***Is there a Web page that our members can look up to follow the wind output?***

There is indeed, Dan. A Web page that Minnkota has out there allows users to look up the last 24 hours of wind output for our wind farms. Go to <http://www.minnkota.com/> and click on wind energy. The Langdon wind farm and the Ashtabula (Valley City) wind farm are on there along with our single wind turbines at Valley City and Petersburg, N.D.

***There have been a number of questions regarding the surcharge that North Star has put on its bill, via Minnkota. Can you explain the reasoning behind this surcharge and what factors have led to this?***

I'd have to say that the \$.05/kWh surcharge we put in place in 2009 was one of the most difficult things I have been involved with since I have been at Minnkota for these past 42 years. The surcharge is a result of an unintended consequence of the Minnesota Renewable Energy Mandate. Minnesota is going to require that 25 percent of all energy sold in the state come from renewable sources, so we knew we needed to get ready for 2025 when this 25 percent rule was to be implemented. When we entered into the contracts with the wind developer for purchasing the wind, we fully expected that any surplus energy we had from these wind turbines would be sold in the wholesale energy market for, at, or for even a little above what we were paying for it.

In 2008, the average price for the wholesale energy market was in excess of \$.05/kWh. But, because of the economic turndown in this country, and the reduced demand for electricity, the surplus energy prices also reduced. So today, instead of a \$.05 wholesale energy market we have one that is just in excess of \$.02/kWh. Because of that, we have had a significant revenue shortfall versus what we expected to receive from surplus energy sales.

About \$28 million less was received in 2009 than what we expected. That was partially offset by the reduced price that Minnkota was required to pay to purchase energy when power plants were offline or for off-peak loads rather than controlling them, but the net was a \$20 million revenue shortfall, which we needed to cover in some manner. Our thoughts were that it would

be better to cover this revenue requirement with a temporary, short-term energy surcharge rather than increasing wholesale power rates in a normal fashion. We expect the 2009 revenue shortfall will be covered by October 2010, at which time the energy surcharge can be removed. However, I also need to add that in 2010, the energy market is still much less than we expected, and therefore, there may be some additional revenue shortfalls that we will need to cover with either rate adjustments or an extension of the energy surcharge.

***Let's shift gears and talk just a little about load control. Minnkota is one of the leaders in this area also. Since we have all this wind power, and the coal-fired generation output will increase because of the Minnesota Power deal, can we expect to see a day when there will be no load control? What does the future of load control hold?***

I don't expect to see a day when there will be no load control at all. There will still be times when our energy resources are less than our customer needs, and the energy prices in the market will be higher than economically feasible to purchase for reducing load control. However, last winter our load control hours were significantly less than in prior years, in large part due to the wind energy that is part of our system. We had a little more than 200 hours of load control last winter compared to 400-500 hours in past winters. We have a plan that we will hold our load control hours to between 250 and 300 hours per year. We believe that it is a reasonable level of load control that the customers can tolerate and yet allow us to avoid having to purchase energy during very high cost periods.

***David, we have talked about a number of things and every one of them cost money. I have been telling our folks that the cost of electricity is going up and I have given them a number of reasons. Some to a point where it sounds like I am whining, but I feel if I am raising the electrical rates, then our folks have a right to know why.***

I agree with you, Dan. Your member-owners have a right to know why our electricity costs are going up. But it is also fair to tell them that many of our cost increases are a result of regulations and/or new laws that require us to control emissions to a much higher level than has previously been seen. A significant amount of our cost increases today, and in the future, will be as a result of having to pay for these emission control equipment additions at the Young Stations.

***So, can you give us a forecast of the next five years of what the rate structure will look like, projected rate increases and anything else, including surcharges, that is or could be costing our members more money?***

Our financial forecast right now predicts a 5.0 percent increase in wholesale rates in 2010 and a 9 percent increase in wholesale rates in 2011 and 2012. From 2013 and on, we are forecasting either 3 percent or near zero increases through 2023. Again, I caution everyone in saying that, but that is what our expectations are now and that will change with a new law or a new regulation as it comes down the pike.

*continued on page 4*



## A sit down with David Loer (continued)

*I also understand that Minnkota is doing everything in its power to control these costs; can you give us an idea of what Minnkota is doing to control costs?*

Minnkota is doing everything that we can to reduce our controllable costs. As I mentioned before, many of our costs such as buying coal for our power plant or maintaining the plant, or meeting the environmental regulations, are not what we would consider controllable costs and we will need to comply with these laws and regulations. However, our internal costs such as payroll and system maintenance, we are working very hard to find ways to do what we need to do better, or to discontinue doing costly things that don't need to be continued. You have our pledge that we will continue to work hard to keep our electricity as the best energy value in the region.

*David, I would like to thank you for your time and I believe that you have been very patient while I have asked you some very pointed questions; so, would you like to add any closing comments for our member-owners?*

Dan, I'd just like to close by thanking you for taking the time to ask questions that are so important for your customers to hear. I am hoping that my answers to your questions will help your member-owners understand our system better. I'd also welcome the opportunity to talk to any of your member-owners in person by stopping at our office in Grand Forks or by calling me at my office. My office number is 701-795-4202. Again, thanks for the opportunity to visit with you about this important and challenging industry that we all work in. Thank you, Dan.

Well there you have it folks, and I hope that this answers a few questions about the energy and the cost of energy in the coming years.

Now on a side note, I know it has been more than a month now since the first devastating earthquake in Haiti, but I am sure that those folks can still utilize and appreciate any offerings we have and our continued prayers.

God Bless You and Our Troops,  
Dan

## Census 2010: Everyone Counts

In March, every household in Minnesota will receive a 2010 Census form. There are only 10 basic questions asked. Your answers are protected and completing the form is required by law. The 2010 Census tabulation will determine how more than \$400 billion in federal funds are distributed to the states each year and will help ensure that Minnesota gets its fair share of representation in the U.S. House of Representatives (715-32-014-03, Debra Sanders).



Snowbirds please take note! Please answer the Census questionnaire that is delivered to your Minnesota residence. By answering the questionnaire using your Minnesota address, you benefit your home state of Minnesota.

The post office will not forward census questionnaires, but you can request one from the Census Bureau at [www.mn2010census.org](http://www.mn2010census.org) or by calling 651-201-2473.

## ATTENTION:

### Parents of high school seniors

Are you aware of North Star Electric's Knowledge Scholarship? To qualify, the parent/guardian must be an active member of North Star Electric, and your child must take a test about your cooperative that provides electricity to your home. North Star Electric will be awarding five scholarships, one \$1,000 and four \$400, plus a chance to win one of eight \$50 cash awards for scoring more than 50 percent on the test (555-19-006-02, Lex Jones). Most of the answers will be in the study material that North Star provides. A couple hours of study time could pay off with a \$1,000 scholarship. Last year only 35 students took the test. The information meeting and the test will be given in mid-April. For more information about the scholarships, please call Wayne at North Star Electric or check with your guidance counselor at your school.

## • • • • Current electrical inspectors • • • •

State law requires that every new electrical installation in any construction, remodeling, replacement or repair shall file a certificate for inspection with the State Board of Electricity and be inspected by a Minnesota electrical inspector.

- **St. Louis and Koochiching counties:**

Bob Orgon  
10111 Roosevelt Rd. S.E.  
Bemidji, MN 56601  
Phone: (218) 556-3829  
Fax: (218) 333-0451  
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)

- **Roseau and Lake of the Woods counties:**

Scott Stenvik  
16409 State Hwy 1 N.W.  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701  
Phone: (218) 689-5406  
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)

# *Murkowski challenges*

# EPA on climate



Senator Lisa Murkowski

By Steven Johnson Published: January 22, 2010, at 11:12 a.m. in Legislation

A group of 38 U.S. senators have signed on to an effort to block the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, introduced the resolution of disapproval on Jan. 21, saying that the nation would face an “economic train wreck” if the EPA proceeds with plans to regulate carbon dioxide as a pollutant under the Clean Air Act.

“The Clean Air Act was written by Congress to regulate criteria pollutants, not greenhouse gases, and its implementation remains subject to oversight and guidance from elected representatives,” she said.

“We should continue our work to pass meaningful energy and climate legislation, but in the meantime, we cannot turn a blind eye to the EPA’s efforts to impose back-door climate regulations with no input from Congress.”

Murkowski’s resolution, which was co-sponsored by Sen. Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., has an uphill climb to become law since it requires concurrence of the House, Senate and President Obama.

However, Lincoln, one of three Democrats who signed on, said the legislative action shows growing dissatisfaction in the Senate about the economic consequences of an EPA regulatory scheme.

“Heavy-handed EPA regulation, as well as the current cap-and-trade bills in Congress, will cost us jobs and put us at an even greater competitive disadvantage to China, India and others,” she said.

NRECA has consistently opposed using the Clean Air Act to regulate carbon dioxide, saying that Congress should address climate change concerns through legislation that keeps consumer pocketbooks at the front and center of the debate.

“We applaud Sen. Murkowski’s efforts and we agree that it would be a big mistake to attempt to regulate carbon through the Clean Air Act,”

NRECA CEO Glenn English said.

Climate change policy will be a focus of next month’s NRECA 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Atlanta, he added.

Murkowski’s resolution will be considered by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. She said she will consider employing a parliamentary tactic to force a floor vote on the resolution, perhaps by early spring, even if the committee does not back it.



*“We should continue our work to pass meaningful energy and climate legislation, but in the meantime, we cannot turn a blind eye to the EPA’s efforts to impose back-door climate regulations with no input from Congress.”*



# Operation Round Up

## helps local programs

The North Star Community Trust Board met on Jan. 11, 2010, to review the 25 applications, which they received requesting funding for various programs. The total amount requested was more than \$42,000. The board had about \$10,500 to work with, so it was not an easy task selecting which group would get funding and what amount they would receive.

Many local programs and organizations benefit from Operation Round Up, a voluntary member-driven fundraising program of North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc., that is designed to provide financial assistance for worthwhile projects and charities in the area. Donations are given to organizations to help make the area a more pleasant and safe place to live.

All funds for Operation Round Up are contributed by the member-owners of North Star Electric and the money is put into a trust fund that is separate from electric accounts (353-21-003-01, Keith Grund). The trust is administered by its own board of directors comprised of people from across the area.



From left to right: Diane McLain, Lake of the Woods Food Shelf; Theresa Brown, Lake of the Woods Early Childhood; Chris Pieper, LSS Senior Nutrition Program; Bill Mouw, Lake of the Woods Senior Fishing; Gretchen Thompson, North Star Electric Community Trust Board.



Front row from left to right: Jerrie B. Glawe, Big Falls Food Shelf; Jean Reichow, North Star Community Trust Board. Second row from left to right: Sandi Jo Kennedy, North Star Community Trust Board; Betty Parker, Big Falls Community Library; Cindy Hasbargen, Littlefork/Big Falls Elementary School; Larry D. Warrington, Kabetogama Fire Department. Third row from left to right: Robin Ramquist, Fairview North Star Hospice; Larry Pelland, Loman Rural Fire Department; Tom Donahue, Littlefork Ambulance Service; Irene Hauner, International Falls Hunger Coalition; Douglas Strife, Koochiching Aging Options.

Operation Round Up directors are appointed by North Star's board members and must be members of the cooperative. The cooperative's general manager is a non voting member of the board.

Organizations from the area may apply for a donation from the Operation Round Up Trust. The applicant must be charitable in nature and be working to meet a need in our area. The Operation Round Up Board meets twice a year and decides if an application meets the



guidelines of the trust and if funds are available.

If a member chooses to be part of Operation Round Up, their bill is "rounded up" to the next highest dollar. For example, if a bill is \$76.47, the computer will round up the bill to \$77. The additional 53 cents will be placed in the trust and distributed to local charitable and community-based programs.

About 80 percent of North Star's members have chosen to participate in Operation Round Up and it is expected that contributions will be about \$18,700 each year. That money goes right back into our community.

The average annual contribution from a member is about \$6. The most that could be contributed in a year by a member is \$11.88 (12 months x 99 cents).

If a member of North Star Electric or a non member of the cooperative would like to make an additional contribution, please give our office a call.

### At the January meeting \$10,330 in Operation Round Up funds were distributed to various qualifying programs and organizations throughout the area including:

- Lake of the Woods Food Shelf – Food stocking
- Falls Hunger Coalition – Food stocking
- Big Falls Food Shelf – Food stocking
- LSS Senior Program – Senior meals
- Northern Light First Responders – Update 02 & trauma kits
- Lake of the Woods Senior Fishing – Let's go fishing with Seniors
- Littlefork/Big Falls Elementary School – Utility carts
- Lake of the Woods Early Childhood – Kids night out
- Littlefork Ambulance Service – Automatic defibrillator/monitor
- Kabetogama Fire Department – Two-way radios
- Birchdale Fire Department – Fire hose & nozzle replacement
- Loman Fire Department – Safety lighting upgrade
- Big Falls Library – Library books
- Fairview North Star Hospice – Respite program
- Koochiching Aging Options – Senior wheels mileage
- Pequana Playhouse – Snow White

# Get involved in the energy debate!



Now is the time to have a candid conversation with your elected officials. Start the conversation today at [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop).

**Our Energy, Our Future**  
A Dialogue With America

*I would like North Star Electric to e-mail my elected officials and ask them the following four questions:*



## Capacity

Experts say that our nation's growing electricity needs will soon go well beyond what renewables, conservation and efficiency can provide. What is your plan to make sure we have the electricity we'll need in the future?



## Technology

What are you doing to fully fund the research required to make emissions-free electric plants an affordable reality?



## Affordability

Balancing electricity needs and environmental goals will be difficult. How much is all this going to increase my electric bill and what will you do to make it affordable?



## Jobs

How will you keep existing jobs and attract new businesses to Minnesota if our electric rates are higher than those in neighboring states?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Account number \_\_\_\_\_

## NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE POLITICAL LEADERS

### Federal legislators

Senator Al Franken  
320 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
[www.franken.senate.gov](http://www.franken.senate.gov)  
202-224-5641  
Fax: 202-224-0044

Senator Amy Klobuchar  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
[www.klobuchar.senate.gov](http://www.klobuchar.senate.gov)  
202-224-3244  
1-888-224-9043 (Minnesota office)  
Fax: 202-228-2186

Congressman James Oberstar  
2365 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
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202-225-6211  
Fax: 202-225-0699

Congressman Collin Peterson  
2211 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
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202-225-2165  
Fax: 202-225-1593

### State of Minnesota legislators

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75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Capitol Building, Room 226  
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651-296-8881  
[sen.tom.bakk@senate.mn](mailto:sen.tom.bakk@senate.mn)

Senator Tom Saxhaug  
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St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-0170  
888-682-3205  
[rep.tom.rukavina@house.mn](mailto:rep.tom.rukavina@house.mn)



## Problems paying your electric bill?

Energy assistance may be available!

If you are receiving a low income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, the following agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.

### Lake of the Woods County Community Services

P.O. Box G-0200  
Baudette, MN 56623  
634-2642

### Northwest Community Action Council

P.O. Box 67  
Badger, MN 56714-0067  
800-568-5329

### Koochiching County Community Services

1000 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
International Falls, MN 56649  
283-7000

### Kootasca Community Action, Inc.

2232 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. E.  
P.O. Box 44  
International Falls, MN 56649  
283-9491 or 800-559-9491

### Kootasca Community Action, Inc.

1213 SE 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744-3984  
800-422-0312

### Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

702 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. S.  
Virginia, MN 55792-2797  
800-662-5711



# Minnesota “Trade-in & Save” Appliance Program

The “Trade-in & Save” Appliance Program will offer Minnesota residents a rebate for replacing their old appliance with an Energy Star™ model. The Minnesota Office of Energy Security (OES) encourages residents to start planning their purchase and use this rebate to “trade up” to the most energy and water efficient appliance that fits their budget. Energy Star™ appliances can save up to \$75 a year in energy costs, while benefiting the environment as well. Nearly \$5 million in rebates will be offered beginning March 1 and ending March 31 or when funds are exhausted. Purchases made before March 1 will be disqualified.

The Minnesota OES has allocated funds across four eligible Energy Star™ appliance categories: refrigerators, freezers, clothes washers and dishwashers. Minnesota residents may apply for one rebate on a single appliance, up to \$200 total per address. All other purchases will not qualify. Purchases can be made at any retailer located in Minnesota - online purchases do not qualify.

## Eligible Appliance and Rebate Amounts

- Clothes Washers (\$200)
- Dishwashers (\$150)
- Freezers (\$100 with purchase and proof of demanufacturing\*, \$50 for purchase only)
- Refrigerators over 7.75 cubic ft (\$200 with purchase and proof of demanufacturing\*, \$100 for purchase only)

\*Proof of demanufacturing will certify the appliance has been removed from the grid and will not be resold or reused. The unit will be decommissioned and recycled according to federal, state and local laws: refrigerants recovered, refrigerator systems decommissioned and mercury components removed.

Minnesota homeowners are encouraged to begin their research now by visiting [www.mnappliancerebate.com](http://www.mnappliancerebate.com). Reservations for rebate application begin March 1, 2010, at 8 a.m. CST at [www.mnappliancerebate.com](http://www.mnappliancerebate.com) or by calling the program toll-free number of 1-877-230-9119.

North Star Electric also has a \$50 rebate on Energy Star™ clothes washers.