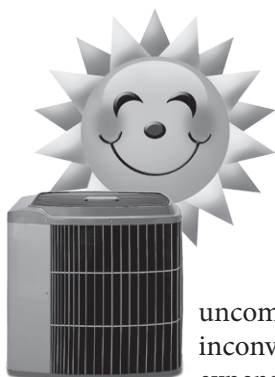


ENERGY EDUCATION COUNCIL

Ready for summer on Heat Awareness Day



Summer months mean warmer temperatures. Extreme summer temperatures are

uncomfortable, inconvenient and expensive. In

recognition of Heat Awareness Day on May 24, the Energy Education Council has tips to help you stay cool and save money before summer heat arrives. Small preparations around the house can add up to big energy savings this summer.

Preparing for summer heat does more than save you money. Simple preparations can also help keep you safe. Heat is the No. 1 weather-related killer in the United States, killing hundreds of people each year. The Energy Education Council has the following tips to help you prepare for rising temperatures:

- Seal cracks around the house. Weather stripping and caulking

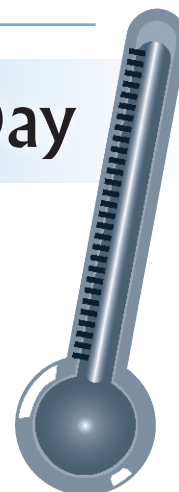
will help maintain your home's temperature.

- Use a programmable thermostat. Set it at a higher temperature when you will be away from home and a more comfortable temperature when you are at home.
- Update your window treatments. Curtains, blinds and awnings reduce solar heat gain.
- Clean off ceiling fans, and make sure they are circulating air in the correct direction for the season. During warm months, ceiling fans should be operating in a counter-clockwise direction. Also, retrieve portable fans from storage. Fans create a cooling effect at less cost than air conditioning.
- Prepare your air conditioner. Air must be able to circulate around your air conditioner, so clear weeds, leaves and other debris around your air conditioner. Replace the filter, and continue to replace the filter monthly throughout the home cooling season.

Another important part of preparation is becoming knowledgeable. Know the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. If you or someone else experiences heavy sweating and weakness, immediately seek a cool environment, drink water and apply a cold compress. If these symptoms progress to high temperature,

vomiting and unconsciousness, seek emergency medical attention.

Try to prevent heat-related illnesses by seeking out cool environments, drinking lots of water and wearing light summer clothes. For more information on having a safe and energy efficient summer, visit EnergyEdCouncil.org.



In this issue:

| | |
|---|-----|
| Board highlights/Always call before you dig (811) | 2 |
| Manager's Report/Budget billing available | 3 |
| Regional haze comments open, hearing set | 4-5 |
| Staff Report/Help keep your lights on/Scholarship winners | 6 |
| Who can wire what and where/Problems paying your bill | 7 |
| Have a successful planting season rooted in safety | 8 |

North Star Electric
will be closed
Monday, May 27,
in observance of
Memorial Day

Please remember those who
sacrificed their lives for our
freedom.

MAY 2013

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1-888-6OUTAGE (1-888-668-8243)
or 634-2603

e-mail us at nsec@wiktel.com
Visit our website at
www.northstarelectric.coop

Members' corner

We added a section called 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.



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.

Highlights from the BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the board of directors' April meeting. All action was routine.

Staff reports included the financial report, employee benefits, the online bill interface to improve efficiency, past due bill collections, the solar mandate legislation with good intentions but horrible rate consequences, load management, CIP (Conservation Improvement Program) rebates, high bill calls, distributed generation, Operation Round Up, the line worker student trip to the power plant, upcoming Member Appreciation days on May 9 (Littlefork) and May 10 (Baudette), scholarships, erecting a solar demonstration project at the Baudette office, the resurrection of the regional haze issue thought to be dead with the \$500 million cost and results not perceptible to the human eye, new service inquiries, bid letting for this

summer's contract line construction, other summer construction work plan projects, the mapping system, DNR permit application fees, outages, safety & training, equipment, grassroots efforts with legislators, the line workers' school graduation, and the city of Warroad's annexation of property within our service territory where a casino is to be built. There was significant discussion about the high costs to the members associated with proposed solar mandate legislation. Directors reported on events attended.

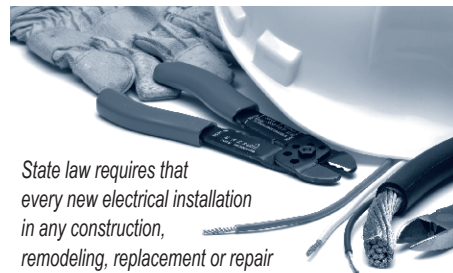
Detailed minutes are available at the cooperative for member review. Regular board meetings are generally held the first Wednesday of every month. If you wish to speak with the board, or have an item that you would like to have placed on the agenda, please contact Manager Dan Hoskins at least two weeks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

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense. Safe digging is no accident: always call 811 before you dig. Visit **call811.com** for more information.



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:

Richard Jenko
P.O. Box 523, Buhl, MN 55713
Cell: (218) 258-8338
New hours: Tue., Wed. & Thurs. will take calls from 7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Inspection will be on Tue. and Thurs. only.

• 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.)

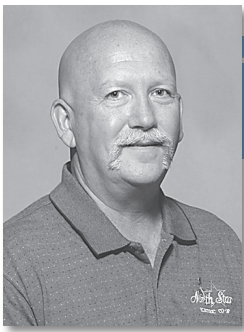


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Facebook

Find us on Facebook



www.facebook.com/NorthStarElectric



Dan Hoskins
General Manager

MANAGER'S REPORT

Ladies and gentlemen, each time I write an article, someone takes the content and sometimes puts a little twist on it to make it sound like I don't like something. Well, if I don't like something, I will tell you. And if I don't agree with something, I will

tell you. Do I want to keep this earth around and take care of the environment so my grandchildren and your kids or grandchildren have something to grow up to? Heck yes! Do I consider myself an environmentalist; yes partly, but no, not to the extent of some of the more radical types! Do we do our part here at North Star? Yes we do, and all employees are very well aware of trying to keep the environment safe and healthy (our employees have small children who need this place to grow into also).

Now let's take renewable energy, such as wind energy or solar energy. I have not said that I actually didn't like it. I think it's an energy alternative that without a backup power source is not very dependable, is expensive and your return is not that great. But that's where this statement, "it's all about choices" comes in. What I have said, and you can probably go back a few issues and check it out, is that neither I nor North Star are against these types of renewables. But, we are against raising your rates to subsidize, or give money toward, the installation of them to make them look like they are paying their own way!

We actually have two private solar systems on our North Star Electric system and they are working, but I don't recall having to give these members a bunch of subsidization money to have them install them; this was their choice and I commend them for their vision.

How about the political arena? Although I am not a big fan of the political arena, (but there again, it's not that I don't like them personally) they have a task, both our state legislators as well as our federal legislators, of trying to do what is right for the people of the state and the country. My beef with them is they don't handle situations effectively that impact you folks and they are too easily convinced that something needs to be done without doing their homework. Take the EPA, for instance. I totally commend the EPA and all the work it has done cleaning up the industrial waste in the rivers and streams and with the localized pollution of our land. But seriously, now they have this agenda

to save the world. But from what? The EPA is sued by "certain groups" in a faraway court in a different state and lose the court case. Then the EPA comes back to the legislators and tells them, "Well the court says we have to do this" and the legislators then tell us, "What can they do?" They lost in court! Really? So more regulations are imposed on our electrical industry and each one of them costs you money. So no, I don't like this type of system that wastes your money.

I have no idea why some state legislators want to pass a solar mandate. I'm not against solar; I'm against mandates, and a 1.33 percent energy tax, yep, I am against that, but so far both of these are going to cost you money. How about a 40 percent Renewable Energy Standard, up from the current 25 percent, which I might add, costs all North Star members as well as all Minnkota members significant dollars each month. The 40 percent will definitely cost you more, and yes, I am against that too.

So, you get my drift here? North Star and I are not against everything, just the things that are going to raise your rates without a real benefit. The more I write about these issues, the more info you have and the more of you will get involved because we need you and this is your cooperative. We try our best to inform you of what's happening and how critical it is to our cooperative, and yes, sometimes, as well as now, what I say will be taken the wrong way. But you know, our employees and directors are committed to you, our member-owners, and how we can best control costs and give you the best product in the world at a price that businesses and homeowners can afford.

I hope you are able to read between the lines and see that I have mentioned a couple of items where there is pending legislation that will affect your electric rates and some things that have already affected your rates over the past years.

Before I go, I am sure that most all of you have already heard that Boise Paper Mill in International Falls has given notice that it will shut down some parts of its operation and upward of 300 jobs will be terminated at the mill. This is always a very difficult decision for any company and more difficult for the folks who have to make adjustments to their lives. We pray for those folks for strength, employment and a return to prosperity, and for those who want or get a chance at early retirement, we wish them many healthy years of retirement.

God Bless You and Our Troops, Dan

Budget billing available

Do you like the idea of paying the same amount each month for your electric bill? If yes, you may want to contact Patsy to discuss your options. The time to enroll is now, so your account has a chance to build up a credit going into colder, higher bill months. Call Patsy at 218-634-2202, 888-634-2202, or email patsynsec@wiktel.com.

Operation Round Up application deadline is May 31

The deadline to submit Operation Round Up grant applications is May 31. Community organizations may apply for an Operation Round Up grant by completing and returning an application form, available at either North Star office or from a director of the North Star Electric Community Trust Board. The directors are Peter Granger, Gretchen Thompson, Margie Sporlein, Zelpha Crawford, Mary Ellen Lehman, Julie Lepisto and Larry Warrington. Grants will be awarded to nonprofit or community-based organizations that demonstrate a commitment to enhancing the quality of life in our region. We would like to say THANK YOU to all the North Star members who are participating in the Operation Round Up program (121-26-015-10, Pearl Aber). About 80 percent of the membership is contributing to this great cause to help our local communities.



Regional haze comments open, hearing set

North Star, Minnkota believe EPA made correct decision on Young Station in 2012

Following several years of deliberation and more than a year after ruling in favor of the state of North Dakota and Minnkota Power Cooperative, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is reopening its consideration of a decision regarding regional haze.

The decision means Minnkota, our cooperative's power supplier, could face a significant increase in its costs to meet environmental requirements that may not even improve the environment.

The National Parks Conservation Association and the Sierra Club last year petitioned the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals for review of the EPA's regional haze determination for the state of North Dakota as well as requested the EPA to reconsider the ruling.

Then, on March 15 this year, the EPA published its notice in the Federal Register to reconsider approval of the state's Best Available Retrofit Technology emission limits for nitrogen oxides (NO_x) for Units 1 and 2 of Minnkota's Milton R. Young Station, a coal-fired plant located near Center, N.D., which provides the majority of the electricity for North Star Electric and Minnkota.

The reconsideration relates to the EPA's approval of the portion of North Dakota's State Implementation Plan (SIP) that allows for Over-Fire Air (OFA)+Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction (SNCR) technology to be used for NO_x reduction at the Young Station in complying with the Regional Haze Rule.

The reconsideration also pertains to Basin Electric Power Cooperative's Leland Olds Station Unit 2.

A December 2011 court ruling weighed heavily in the EPA's decision to approve the SIP. In that case, a U.S. District Court ruled in favor of the state of North Dakota in a dispute resolution process under the Consent Decree for what is Best Available Control Technology (BACT) at the Young Station.

Based on a voluminous five-year public record on the issue, we at North Star believe the EPA should stick with its original decision. It avoids the installation of \$500 million of equipment that has not been proven to work effectively at the Young Station and would not provide a perceptible environmental benefit. Installing Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) technology would prompt a 20 to 30 percent rate increase for Minnkota cooperatives.

A public hearing on the reconsideration of North Dakota's regional haze plan will be held May 15 at the North Dakota Department of Health Environmental Training Center in Bismarck. Times are 3-5 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.

"We believe the EPA made a sound decision in March 2012 when it properly identified the right technology for the Young Station," said Mac McLennan, Minnkota president & CEO. "It was the right thing for North Dakota and the consumer."

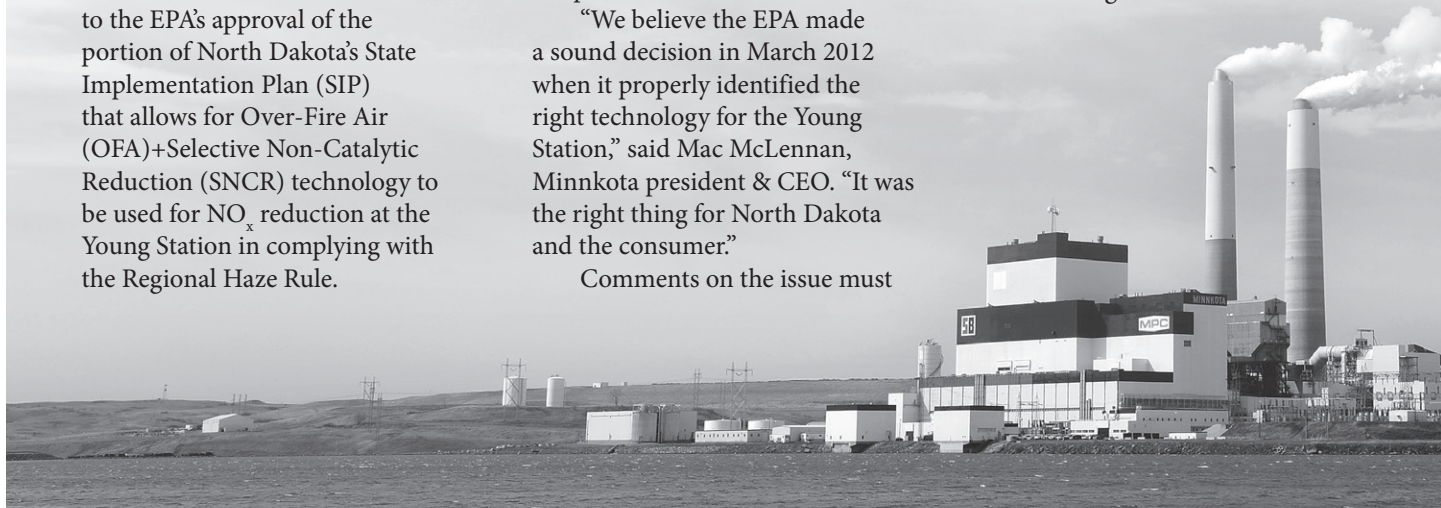
Comments on the issue must

be received on or before June 17, 2013. A listing of the ways in which you can submit comments is included in this issue. Please consider taking a moment to call or write the EPA and let them know the SIP is the correct decision for North Star, Minnkota, the state of North Dakota and consumers in Minnesota and North Dakota.

The EPA and other agencies have been monitoring visibility in national parks and wilderness areas since 1988. In 1999, the EPA announced a major effort to improve air quality in those areas. The Regional Haze Rule calls for state and federal agencies to work together to improve visibility in 156 national parks and wilderness areas.

North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple and the state's congressional delegation were pleased with the March 2012 ruling by the EPA. Rather than a costly federal plan, the agreement provides North Dakota with flexibility to implement sensible and cost-effective standards for improving visibility in selected areas of the state such as Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

We believe North Dakota's delegation remains committed to affirming the state of North



Dakota's ability to manage its own implementation plan, citing the state's longstanding commitment to meeting all Clean Air Act requirements, and significant progress the state has already made in reducing regional haze.

On the day of the March 2012 ruling, North Dakota U.S. Sen. John Hoeven said: "North Dakota is one of 12 states to meet all federal ambient air quality standards. Our state has long demonstrated that we can promote strong economic growth and job creation, while doing a good job of protecting the air, land and water. While there is still more work to do, today's decision by the EPA is a good step forward in recognizing our state's ability to best manage our own resources."

Since 2006, Minnkota has spent more than \$425 million on emission control equipment at the Young Station.

SEND COMMENTS TO KEEP REGIONAL HAZE SIP FOR THE YOUNG STATION

If you want to send a comment to the EPA, come to our North Star offices. Or submit comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-R08-OAR-2010-0406, by one of the following methods:

- **Web:** <http://www.regulations.gov/>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- **Email:** r8airrulemakings@epa.gov.
- **Fax:** (303) 312-6064.
- **Mail:** Director, Air Program, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 8, Mailcode 8P-AR, 1595 Wynkoop Street, Denver, Colorado 80202-1129.

The facts on Regional Haze for Minnkota

- The EPA should not reconsider its approval of the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) regional haze State Implementation Plan (SIP).
- The goal of the regional haze program is to improve visibility; it does not focus on health.
- North Dakota's SIP improves visibility.
 - It identifies the Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) as Over-Fire Air (OFA) and SNCR (Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction) technology for North Dakota's cyclone lignite-fired boilers, including Minnkota's Milton R. Young units.
- The EPA should uphold its decision whereby it approved the SIP regarding nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions for Units 1 and 2 at the Young Station. In approving the SIP, the EPA explained that a 2011 federal court ruling weighed heavily in that decision, where a court found the use of SNCR – and not Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) – was a reasonable determination by the NDDoH. In fact, the NDDoH evaluated this issue for approximately five years and generated thousands of pages that support the finding of SNCR+OFA as the appropriate technology for cyclone boilers using North Dakota lignite coal. Additionally, the NDDoH accepted significant input from the EPA and the public in developing its plan.
 - A state's authority and flexibility to regulate its own clean air programs is an essential part of the Clean Air Act. The Act is designed to prevent the federal government from substituting its one-size-fits-all judgment for a state's superior understanding of its local conditions and needs.
- Prior to approving the SIP, the EPA wanted to force North Dakota's cyclone lignite-fired boilers to install technology (namely, SCR) that is unreasonably expensive relative to the unnoticeable improvement in visibility and has not been demonstrated to work on cyclone lignite-fired boilers.
 - Western North Dakota facilities have spent more than \$700 million in recent years on the control of emissions. Under the EPA's plan, they will be required to spend another \$800 million.
 - Minnkota has already installed OFA+SNCR technology and updated sulfur dioxide (SO₂) scrubbers:
 - Improvement: NO_x controls reduce emissions by 55 to 56 percent, and SO₂ scrubbers remove 95 percent of the SO₂.
 - Cost: \$425 million.
 - If Minnkota were forced to use SCR, it could cost an additional \$500 million to install, besides the \$40 million Minnkota already spent installing OFA+SNCR technology and the \$425 million spent overall on environmental upgrades.
 - The EPA explains that "most people can detect a change in visibility of one deciview." But, the EPA acknowledges, when compared to SNCR+OFA, SCR technology will improve visibility only half a deciview – less than the human eye will notice!
 - The technology hasn't been proven to work! North Dakota's high-sodium lignite coal is unique – when SCR technology was tested on North Dakota boilers using lignite coal, the catalyst failed after two months.
- SCR technology provides no additional visibility improvement from OFA+SNCR technology identified by the state and comes at a much higher cost. OFA+SNCR technology has been proven to work on North Dakota facilities.
- North Dakota's air is among the country's cleanest.
 - In 2012, the American Lung Association gave Oliver County (home to the Young Station), along with seven other North Dakota counties, an "A" grade for lack of ozone.
 - North Dakota is one of only seven states that meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards; in fact, North Dakota air is cleaner than the standards require.
- The impact: The cost of the EPA's plan would force cooperatives and municipals in the Minnkota/Northern Municipal Power Agency Joint System to raise rates 20 to 30 percent in North Dakota and Minnesota.
- Contact your congressional delegation and ask them to keep fighting for the North Dakota state plan for regional haze in areas such as Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge's wilderness area. See page 7 for contact information.

Staff Report

Marty Mollberg, *Manager of Operations*



Marty Mollberg
Manager of Operations

It has been a pretty busy winter for the operations department. We were able to get the majority of our pole changeouts completed before the frost and snow conditions shut us down, and we will be resuming that as soon as road restrictions go off and the ground dries up.

We have the majority of our line inspection completed and the crews have been working on the necessary repairs (664-12-025-05, Jeremy J Kilbride). This has been most helpful for our two new journeymen, Jesse Huot and Darren Koschak, who were hired in January. This allowed them to better learn the geographics of our area and the layout of our distribution system.

It looks to be a busy summer with lots of interest for new services and existing service upgrades. Be sure to contact us in advance so we may schedule you in our work plan.

We have several line upgrade work plans scheduled to take place this summer. These locations on the west end of the system are from Spencer Estling's going north two miles on Township Road 141, from County Road 6 by the Wheeler substation going east two miles on County Road 167 to County Road 75, and from County Road 167 going north on County Road 75 three miles to County Road 73 then east on County Road 73 to State Highway 172. On the east end we have three projects also. They are from County

Road 332 truck bypass going south on State Highway 53 for three miles, a one and a half mile line relocate on the Ash River Trail and a one mile line upgrade in the Kabetogama area. If you have any concerns or questions about these work plans, feel free to call us.

We also have the final phase of the Highway 11 road job to prepare for. It is the area from Loman to Pelland Junction, and we will need to relocate our lines prior to the bid letting June 2014.

One final note, it's tree planting time, so please look up before planting your trees. Your co-op spends a lot of time and money maintaining your right of way. Now help us keep it clear of outage-causing trees. We require 20 feet on each side of overhead lines and 10 feet on each side of underground lines.

GSOC (Gopher State One-Call) ... If you plan to do any digging, please remember it is the law you **MUST** contact GSOC before you dig. The ground is crawling with more than worms; it is full of wires and cables of all kinds! To save yourself, and most likely many others, and the inconvenience and cost of a dig in, please plan your project well in advance, and notify GSOC first! ... call 811.

Until next time, have a safe and healthy summer!

HELP KEEP YOUR LIGHTS ON



Careless ditch burning can destroy utility poles and junction boxes, leading to unnecessary power outages. Pole damage ranges from surface charring to destruction, and may cost landowners \$2,000 on up, depending on the location of the pole and the severity of the damage.

Please use extreme caution when burning around our electrical equipment, and always tend to a fire once it is lit. Let's do our part to keep the lights on and costs down.

Scholarship Winners

FIRST PLACE

Maria Lewis

Indus

SCORE

100%

SECOND PLACE

Brent Hanson

Lake of the Woods

96%

Ryan Kilbride

International Falls

96%

Courtney Pfeifer

Littlefork/Big Falls

96%

Logan Reed

Lake of the Woods

95%

Congratulations to this year's winners!

North Star would like to thank all the students who took the time to study and take the test, which was about North Star Electric and rural electric cooperatives. The students who took the test were: Warroad – Tyler Fish, Hannah Maunu and Josh Mack; Lake of the Woods – Brent Hanson, Logan Reed, Brandon Lockner, Austin Hiemstra-Hoops, Sara Stanton, Tate Moeller, Emily Ney, Austin Novak, Cole Sugden and Kerista Johnson; Indus – Maria Lewis, Tyler Jonson, Molly Baldwin and Wyatt Tessier; Littlefork/Big Falls – Courtney Pfeifer, Claire Judith Simon, Kristy Horne Dunn, Ashley Lagergren, Luke Daniels, Chelsey Ziemba, Quintin Smith and John Reller; International Falls – Ryan Kilbride, Anah Schwartz, Ben King and Levi Thorstad. These scholarships were made possible from funding of unclaimed capital credits.

WHO CAN WIRE WHAT AND WHERE

Before you begin a wiring project, be sure you look into Minnesota law. The law states that all electrical wiring shall be done by qualified licensed electrical contractors.

However, the "owner" is exempt from electrical contracting license requirements. This only applies to electrical work performed by the owner on single family residences and associated structures. Both primary and secondary residences, such as lake homes, are included. However, the exemption does not apply to condominiums, rental properties and wiring not used for residential purposes (business including farming).

An associated structure could be a detached garage, gazebo, small lawn and garden shed, but does not include the 50 x 100 machine shed for the combine.

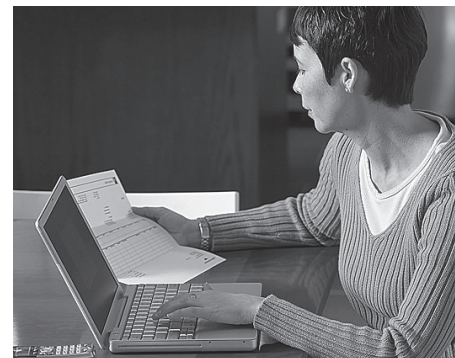
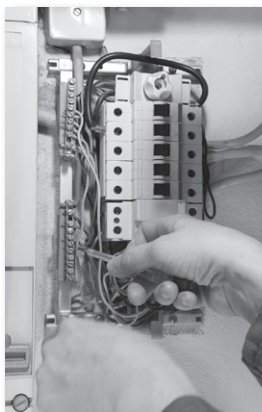
Minnesota Statutes, section 326.01, defines an "owner" as "a natural person who physically performs electrical work on premises the person owns and actually occupies as a residence or owns and will

occupy as a residence upon completion of construction."

Safety is always our biggest concern so before you start any type of the above wiring, play it safe and call your state electrical inspector. This phone call will accomplish a lot because the "owner exemption" does not exempt the owner from getting electrical wiring inspected. In this case the owner is no different than the licensed electrical contractor who must get their workmanship looked at as well.

Advance contact with the electrical inspector will save you headaches later. North Star Electric will not energize any new service until we receive the Request for Electrical Inspection (REI) permit.

REI permits and information on wiring requirements are available at: www.electricity.state.mn.us.



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 Social Services

206 8th Ave. SE, Suite 200
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 5th St.
International Falls, MN 56649
283-7000

Kootasca Community Action, Inc.

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

Kootasca Community Action, Inc.

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

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

702 3rd Ave. S.
Virginia, MN 55792-2797
800-662-5711

NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE POLITICAL LEADERS

Federal legislators

President Barack Obama

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
www.whitehouse.gov
president@whitehouse.gov
202-456-1111

Senator Al Franken

320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.alfranken.com
202-224-5641
Fax: 202-224-0044

Senator Amy Klobuchar

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

Congressman Rick Nolan

2447 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
www.nolan.house.gov
202-225-6211
Facebook: US Rep Rick Nolan
Twitter: @USRepRickNolan

Congressman Collin Peterson

2109 Rayburn House Office
Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
www.collinpeterson.house.gov
202-225-2165
Fax: 202-225-1593

State of Minnesota legislators

Governor Mark Dayton

75 Rev. Dr. Martin
Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Capitol Building, Room 130
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606
800-657-3717
mark.dayton@state.mn.us

Senator Tom Bakk

75 Rev. Dr. Martin
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St. Paul, MN 55155-1606
651-296-8881
sen.tom.bakk@senate.mn

Senator Rod Skoe

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651-296-4196
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Senator LeRoy Stumpf

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651-296-8660
Email: Use mail form

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Have a successful planting season rooted in safety



As farmers make plans to return to their fields for spring planting, Safe Electricity urges farm workers to be particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines.

- Always be aware of the location of power lines, and designate preplanned routes that avoid hazard areas.
- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Many tractors are equipped with radio and communication systems that have very tall antennas extending from the cab that could make contact with power lines. Avoid raising the arms of planters or cultivators or raising truck beds near power lines, and never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.
- Simply coming too close to a power line while working is dangerous as electricity can arc or “jump” to conducting material or objects, such as a ladder, pole or truck. Remember, nonmetallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination.
- When guy wires (a grounded wire used to stabilize utility

poles) are broken, these normally neutral wires can be anything but harmless (708-09-028-01, Charles R Crego). If you hit a guy wire and break it, call the utility to fix it. Do not do it yourself. When dealing with electrical poles and wires, always call the electric utility.

- If your equipment does come into contact with power lines, stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives.
- If leaving the cab is necessary, as in the case of fire, the proper action is to jump — not step — with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area. Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment before the power has been shut off.

Managers should make sure full-time and seasonal workers are educated on these safety precautions, and danger areas need to be thoroughly identified and labeled.

For more electrical safety information, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Properly installed shades can be one of the most effective ways to improve windows' energy efficiency. Lower them during summer; in winter, raise during the day and lower at night on south-facing windows. Dual shades, with reflective white coating on one side and a heat-absorbing dark color on the other, can be reversed with the seasons and save even more energy. Learn more at EnergySavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



MIKE TRUEMAN 10 years of service!

Red Lantern Award recipient



At Minnkota Power Cooperative's annual meeting Friday, April 5, Mike Trueman, board member for District 2, received the Red Lantern Award. This award recognizes 10 years of service to the electric cooperative industry at North Star Electric Cooperative.