Baudette, Minnesota

North Star

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Volume 58 Number 6, June 2013

LEGISLATIVE WATCH So, what's the deal with solar'



ou would assume that a source of electricity with free fuel would be a good thing, but there are several concerns and reasons to move cautiously. Although there are big tax credits and some companies advertise no upfront costs, you must be careful.

Ann Ellis Assistant General Manager

Before signing on any dotted line, please give us a call to discuss what you are contemplating.

North Star Electric Cooperative's mission is to improve our members' lives. Outside vendors are in business to make money for themselves. We will give you all the facts so you can make a good decision, even if it means we sell less electricity.

One thing in the works here at the co-op is to install a solar demonstration project. This will allow members to see how the energy in sunshine can be converted to electricity and how it impacts your cooperative.

One of our concerns, actually our main concern, is the lack of technology to adequately store excess electricity. Our peak times occur in the winter, generally between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m., when it is dark. If solar energy could be effectively stored during the day, when we have more than enough electricity available, and released to the grid later during peak times, solar could

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become helpful. Our demonstration project will help visitors better understand this issue. A salesman selling solar products may not even mention storage because of the additional installation cost to include it.

If you are wondering how much electricity sold in Minnesota comes from solar, it is a very small fraction, even though solar panels have been around for decades. Thirteen MW (megawatts) solar compared to the 53,000 MW total is .02 percent. This fact itself should raise a cautionary flag for you to check with someone you trust before believing the promises of a salesman.

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We will be keeping our eyes wide open for technological breakthroughs on this, but for now, please be careful.

In the meantime, let me tell you about increased pressure for more regulations on coal-fired power plants, the source of generation that makes your electricity reliable. The latest threats include the reappearance of a visibility issue - regional haze. As you likely remember, it's not about health concerns, but rather the clearness of the air. Your G&T (generation and transmission) cooperative, Minnkota Power Cooperative, addressed this visibility concern, providing excellent results, which the EPA acknowledged a year ago; however, now there are groups suing the EPA about that decision. A reversal, requiring a different solution to an already solved problem, could raise wholesale power costs by 35 percent. Is a huge electric bill increase worth a visibility change that you can't even perceive? One-half of one deciview would be the improvement; however, the human eye can only detect a change of one deciview. Remember, this issue is only about visibility.

Another threat is the U.S. Department of Energy banning large capacity resistance water heaters. We allow these on our off-peak program because they act like environmentally friendly batteries – heating the water when demand for electricity is low, and not allowing them to recharge during peak times. When we can flatten our demand curve, we can avoid the need for more electricity generating plants.

So, here we are ... fighting to keep your electric bill affordable, while balancing it with environmental stewardship.

Watch *The Enlightener* for updates as the solar demonstration project progresses, and **PLEASE** don't hesitate to contact us with your questions.

At your service we remain ... Ann



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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.

<u>Highlights from the</u> **BOARDROOM**

These are the highlights from the board of directors' May 10, 2013, meeting. In addition to routine action, the board voted to increase the capital budget by \$1,200 to \$4,700 to purchase a trailer, to accept the low bids for both the underground and overhead portions of this summer's contracted line construction, to move summer board meeting dates where there are scheduling conflicts and to proceed with getting bids to have a contractor GPS the locations of all the cooperative's electric plant, which will interact with our automated line staking program, aid our linemen when working with the Outage Management System, provide current mapping in the field and enhance our safety program.

Staff reports included the financial report, increased sales due to the cooler spring, an increased billing demand also associated with the colder winter, the upcoming elimination of about a third of the Boise workforce, legislative items, the grassroots effort to impact legislation harmful to cooperative members, load management, conservation (CIP) rebates, distributed generation, the line worker students' trip to the power plant, school safety demonstrations, scholarships for high school seniors, the Solar Issues Forum attended by cooperative representatives, new service inquiries, outages, filling the journeyman and summer help positions on the line crew and the U.S. Senate Resolution designating April 18, 2013, as National Lineman Appreciation Day. Reports were given on Minnkota and Square Butte board meetings, as well as the Legislative Conference.

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.)

Keep your AC running efficiently this summer



H ow would you like to pay more on your cooling bill this summer? The answer is probably a great big "No thanks!" If you are not cleaning or replacing the filter on your air conditioner, you might be doing just that.

Dirty filters obstruct airflow, causing a decrease in the system's efficiency. In addition to blocking air that is trying to cool your home, the air that makes it through or around a clogged filter can carry dirt and dust into other parts of the cooling unit, which can also decrease the efficiency of your air conditioner. The air conditioner's evaporator coil can collect dirt over their months and years of service. A clean filter prevents the evaporator coil from soiling quickly. In time, however, it will still collect dirt. This dirt reduces airflow and insulates the coil, reducing its ability to absorb heat. To avoid this problem, check your evaporator coil every year and clean it as necessary. The same is true of the condenser coils on the outside unit of your air conditioner. An occasional cleaning will keep the coils clean of dirt and operating more efficiently.

When purchasing a new filter, there are some things to keep in mind. Filter efficiency refers to how much dust and particulate matter that the filter cleans from the air, not how energy efficient the filter is. This rating is called the Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value, or MERV. The higher the MERV value, the more efficiently the filter will remove dust and particles from the air.

There are a variety of filter types from which to choose, and the best way to find out which one is right for your air conditioner is to follow the manufacturer's recommendations. Here is an overview of some of the more popular filter types:

- **Panel filters** They are often made out of woven fiberglass. They stop only the largest particulate matter and should be changed once a month.
- Electrostatic filters These can be washed and reused, and they stop more particulate matter. However, they clog up easily. Regular maintenance is important.
- **Pleated-media filters** These will last about three months (445-06-008-02, Mark Rooney). While they do stop more dust, they also restrict more of the airflow.
- Electronic filters They are quite effective at stopping dust but require frequent maintenance.
- **HEPA filters** These filters are very good at stopping particulate matter but require special air handlers and ductwork.

No matter what filter your system uses, it is important to keep an eye on it to make sure it is either replaced or cleaned when it clogs with dust and dirt. To learn more about the safe and efficient use of energy, visit **EnergyEdCouncil.org**.

Attention budget bill members

The amount on the bill you receive in June WILL BE DIFFERENT. This is because the estimated budget is compared to the actual electricity used, and the difference is billed. The bill we send you in July will begin a new budget year, and it may show a new budget amount to pay, based on previous usage. If you have any questions, call Patsy at 218-634-2202, 888-634-2202, or email <u>patsynsec@</u> wiktel.com.

STATE REP. ROGER ERICKSON attends North Star's board meeting



State Rep. Roger Erickson of Baudette was a guest at the May 28 North Star Electric Cooperative board meeting. He provided a summary of the session's issues, and the board thanked him for his support relating to the Energy Bill.



The value is electric!

One tank of gas for your car 20 gallons at \$3.99/gallon = **\$79.80** 24 days of electricity for your entire home = **\$79.80*** *Based on North Star Electric average residential usage of 875 kWh per month at

*Based on North Star Electric average residential usage of 875 kWh per month a the residential rate of \$.113/kWh + Minnkota surcharge of \$.003/kWh (Does not include the \$36 basic service fee)



Hearing held on regional haze issue

State, Minnkota believe the state plan is right for North Dakota

he state of North Dakota and Minnkota Power Cooperative have been in an ongoing dispute with the federal EPA about the Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) for nitrogen oxides (NO_X) at the Milton R. Young Station for several years.

The dispute between the state and the EPA centers on how the state plans to improve visibility in Class I areas like Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the wilderness area of the Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge. The regional haze program addresses visibility; it is not a health-based program.

"It's time to close the book on this issue," said Dave Glatt, director of the state Health Department's environmental health section.

Glatt's comments came at another EPA public hearing on the North Dakota regional haze issue. The hearing was May 15 at the State Health Department's Environmental Training Center in Bismarck.

The latest hearing was on the reconsideration of North Dakota's State Implementation Plan (SIP) for regional haze that was approved in 2012, prompted by a petition from the Sierra Club and the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA). The EPA is taking written comments through June 17 on the appeal of North Dakota's plan.

State leaders, including Gov. Jack Dalrymple, and industry officials

spoke in favor of keeping the SIP for North Dakota. Other groups, including Sierra Club representatives, said North Dakota should fall under the Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) for regional haze.

The basic message from the state and energy officials was that the SIP features proven, cost-effective technology and the EPA made the correct decision in 2012 by approving the plan. Opponents said the EPA should reconsider the plan in favor of a FIP, which would include costly technology that has not been proven to work on North Dakota lignite coal using cyclone-fired boilers.

Stacey Dahl, Minnkota manager of external affairs, said the EPA's decision was not arbitrary or capricious in light of comprehensive scientific analysis, judicial precedent and an extensive public record.

The major difference between the SIP and the FIP is the cost on the region's utility industry and ratepayers. If the EPA is successful in its attempt to take over the state's plan dealing with NO_x emissions, Minnkota would be required to invest about \$500 million in new technology. Minnkota had to increase its rates significantly in 2011. Minnkota's \$425 million investment in emission controls, along with other marketplace conditions, required the increase.

The EPA's plan would require Minnkota and other utilities in the

Why it's important

Minnkota member cooperatives have installed proven technology to cut emissions at the Milton R. Young Station. The original EPA plan would have required the Minnkota systems to install a different technology that costs \$500 million and would not show a visibility improvement detectable to the human eye.

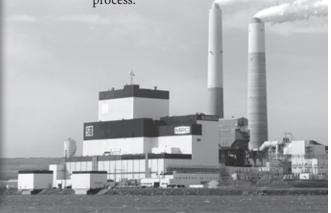
region to install Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR), a technology that the agency says would reduce about 90 percent of NO_x emissions.

North Dakota's plan required Over-Fire Air (OFA) and Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction (SNCR) technology that is proven to work on North Dakota lignite, and will reduce 55-56 percent of NO_X emissions. Minnkota installed the system at a cost of \$40 million.

"North Dakota has been long committed to protecting the state's air quality and health of its citizens," Dalrymple said at the hearing.

This issue is also tracking in the court system.

A hearing on the issue was held May 14 in front of a three-judge panel in St. Paul. Minnkota General Counsel David Sogard attended and reported that the arguments had gone well, and that he is hopeful about the court's decision, which will come in three to five months. If Minnkota prevails, the ruling will supersede the administrative process.



Send comments to keep regional haze SIP for the Young Station

You may submit comments to the EPA, 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: <u>r8airrulemakings@epa.gov</u>.
- Fax: (303) 312-6064.
- **Mail:** Director, Air Program, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 8, Mailcode 8P-AR, 1595 Wynkoop Street, Denver, Colorado 80202-1129.

Voices have been heard on solar issue

hanks to rural legislators and grassroots efforts, talk of implementing solar mandates on electric cooperatives and municipal utilities has faded into darkness in the Minnesota Legislature. Grassroots efforts by Minnkota member

systems and their member-owners and Northern Municipal Power Agency (NMPA) municipals and their participants, along with other groups, helped to thwart what could have been devastating costs for North Star Electric Cooperative and the Minnkota/NMPA Joint



System. After months of

After months of discussions and negotiations, Minnesota cooperatives and municipals in mid-May were exempt from solar mandates, taxes and net metering changes in the final energy bill in the 2013 Legislature.

The state's investorowned utilities (IOUs) such as Otter Tail, Xcel Energy and

Minnesota Power weren't as fortunate. They will need to generate 1.5 percent of their energy from solar generation by 2020. Iron mining facilities and paper mills are exempt. To the surprise of many, this energy legislation for IOUs was rolled into a larger economic development bill at a very late stage of the legislative process.

Consumers from North Star Electric and the Joint System made phone calls and sent emails and letters to rural legislators to voice their concerns about energy mandates and the millions of dollars that it would cost to pay for new solar generation.

For instance, a bill in the Senate (SF 901), if passed as introduced, would have required the state's cooperative and municipal power companies to derive 2 percent of their total electric sales within Minnesota from solar

Why it's important

Minnkota member cooperatives have a good track record with renewable energy. Thirty-two percent of your co-op's member-owner load comes from wind energy. The Minnkota member systems are concerned about rates increasing significantly if they had to install expensive solar energy that only works 15 to 18 percent of the time. by 2025. Minnkota estimated this mandate alone would cost approximately \$193 million by 2025 in capital costs to the Joint System. The annualized cost would be nearly \$13 million in 2025.

The Senate bill would have also created a solar energy

production incentive of 1 percent of retail electric sales to be paid to qualifying solar energy producers by IOUs, cooperatives and municipals. That would have cost the member-owners of the Minnkota/NMPA Joint System more than \$2.5 million in 2012.

Other original bills in the 2013 Legislature had required cooperatives and municipals needing to derive an even higher percentage of their electric sales from

solar, ranging from 4 to 10 percent of their total generation.

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association estimates that owning, operating and maintaining a solar facility in Minnesota would cost 25 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh), which is four to five times more than what it costs the Joint System for coal



and wind. Consider further that the state of Minnesota already has one of the most aggressive renewable energy mandates in the country at 25 percent by 2025.

The expense of the solar mandate to the Joint System makes even less sense when you consider the Joint System's current energy resource mix. The Joint System has been recognized for having the highest percentage of wind of any nongovernmental utility in the country at 32 percent. The number increases to 42 percent if you count hydro-based generation, which is usually classified as a renewable energy source since it is derived from naturally replenished resources. But the state of Minnesota does not recognize hydro from large facilities such as the Garrison Dam as a renewable source.

Solar legislation for cooperative and municipal utilities also would have reneged on the negotiated 2007 Renewable Energy Standard agreement of allowing utilities to decide the best approach to meeting the standard for their system. The mandate would erode local control to decide which renewable resources most efficiently meet renewable energy standards, and instead mandate a renewable energy that has a low capacity factor and is expensive.

North Star would like to thank the legislators, Sen. Tom Bakk, Sen. Rod Skoe, Sen. LeRoy Stumpf, Rep. David Dill, Rep. Roger Erickson and Rep. Dan Fabian, who worked hard to revise the energy bills introduced

in the 2013 Legislature. Please be sure to keep in touch with these legislators and thank them for their efforts in this battle to have a common sense approach to keeping electricity rates as low as possible.



We are looking for you!

Listed on the following pages are the names of past and present members of North Star Electric who have unclaimed capital credits remaining on our books. Eventually, the remaining unclaimed capital credits for the names listed on these pages will revert back to the cooperative as contributed capital. If you recognize any names in this publication please have that person or their authorized representative contact our office for further instructions on how the unclaimed amounts may be retired. Thank you for your assistance.

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CHEZICK, LLOYD

MONTGOMERY, STEVEN MOSTAD, BEN MOULDS, JAMES NAPPER, WALLACE NELSON, MARGARET NELSON, NELL NELSON, ROLAND W. NIEMI, BENHARD E. NOLIN, PAT OFFERDAHL, PATRICK OLSON, GORDON OSCHWALD, MARK **OSLUND EST, CLIFFORD** PARKER, SCOTT PELLAND, ROSS C. POISSON, SCOTT PULLAR, TONY L. RASSIER, FRED RASSIER, LUCILLE RAUSCHER, NICK REEVE, MIKE RUCKH, K. J. RUELLE, CLARENCE P. SALMI, OIVA SANDBACK, SCOTT SAVELA, GORDON SCHILLINGER, ROBERT SCHLUETER, WAYNE SCHNEEGAS, MICHAEL SCHOLZ, ADA SCHULZ, THOMAS R. SEWARD, KEITH W. SIVIGNY, JOHN SKARO, FAYEE SLATINSKI, LINDA M. SMITH, ED SMITH, RODERICK SOLBERG, ERNEST E. STAFFORD, JAMES STONE, LEONALD E. SULLIVAN, RICK SWANSON, THOMAS D. TCI OF NORTHERN MN THEVENOT, MARGARET B. THOMPSON, ARNT T. THOMPSON, CHARLES TRABERT, JOHN TRACY, ROBERT L. TRANA, FILEEN TURNER AND SHEETS UNOCAL (CURTICE ISLAND) VAN DRUNEN, BETHA VANCE, ROBERT VELSVAAG, HERMANO VIGER, CLARENCE VIGOREN, LYLE WARD, MELVIN WHITE, ELIZABETH WILCOX, LARRY E. WILCOX, LARRY WILLIAMS, CHARLES WORLEY, GEORGIETT WRIGHT, ROBERTT YUTZY, RONALD G. ZAHN, TERA ZEIPEN, FLORENCE ZIBURSKI, JIM

ISANTI, MINN. JENSVOLD, LARRY

KABETOGAMA, MINN. ANKRUM, MERLE W. LOMAS, BOB SWINDELL, MURPHY WEIDEMAN, CLARENCE

KIMBALL, MINN. LITCHY, GARY

LA CRESCENT, MINN. RUUD, DONALD

LAKE BENTON, MINN. LAFLIN, THERON

LAKE BRONSON, MINN. EKDAHL, BEVERLY LAKE ELMO, MINN. FYTEN, RICHARD A

LAKEVILLE, MINN. AXELSON, JOHN A. FOSBURGH, CLAYTON

WALKER, FLOYD LITTLE FALLS, MINN. TUPPER, MIKE

LITTLEFORK, MINN.

ANDERSON, ERIC ANDERSON, ETHELL ANSON INC. ANTHONY, PAUL ANTHONY, THOMAS J. BARON, LYNNE BEHR, HAROLD BERG, AGNES BROWN, DAYMON BRUCE, JEFFREY A. DOBSON, STEVEN DOREN, A. H. DUDIN, GENNADIY EGGEBROTEN, HENRY FLATEN, GARY R. FLATT, TERRY FLEMING, JANE FRANK, SHAWN GABIOU, CHRIS GEHMAN, DARYL GEHMAN, DARYL L. GRIFFING, JANELL GROVER, BERTHA HALL, JAMES W. HANSEN, WALTER HAUGH, DARRELL L. HOY, HERMAN HUGGINS, JAMES K. JENNINGS, MARY JANE JOHNS, BYRON JOHNSON, WESLEY JONES, GORDON **KLEMETSEN, JERRY** LTFK COOP SOC MARTIN, CLYDE MILLER, JEFFREY MORTENSON, MIKEL NELSON, TERRY ELL OLSON, EDWIN RASMUSSEN, PATRICIA RICHARDS, J. C. ROGERS, SAMUEL SPODEN, PATRICIA STAPLES, HELEN STAPLES, HERMAN TEDDER, JIMMY TIMMER, BERNICE TOMCZAK, SHERI TUPPER, MIKE VANCE, CAMI WORLEY, DAN YUHAS, THOMAS A. LOMAN, MINN.

HOCHSTETLER, WALTER OPSAHL, MELVIN POE, FLOYD H.

MADISON, MINN. MERCHANT, STEVE

MARGIE, MINN. DENNE, LLOYD HAVERLAND, EVA MALONE, FRED

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. BERGQUIST, SYLVIA M.

BRUGGEMAN, BONNIE FORBRAGD, D. HEPPNER, FRANK HUSET, KATHLEEN MICHAL, STANTON P. ROSEN, JOEL SHULL, HAROLD TAMMARO, MICHAEL YRJANSON, RALPH

MINNETONKA, MINN.

JOHNSON, PHILLIP S. KLIEVER, EDWARD NIKUNEN, WILHO

MOOSE LAKE, MINN.

SCHWOCHERT, ED SCHWOCHERT, JACQUELIN E. SCHWOCHERT, MICHAEL L.

MOUND, MINN. MOFFITT, CECIL SKINNER, DARCIE W.

NEW HOPE, MINN. EAGLE WING RES-F WINGER STROTHMAN, CHET

NISSWA, MINN. ANDERSON, DEBORAH

NORTH MANKATO, MINN. CARSON, CLAYTON T. FARLEY, JOSEPH REISDORF, JANE S.

NORTH SAINT PAUL, MINN. MARTIN, GRETA

NORTHHOME, MINN. BERGQUIST, GLEN BLAKE, LEASA HOLLENHORST, DAVID PATROW, DEAN

ORR, MINN. DEVORE, MARGARET HEIKKILA, BEN HOHL, LEEH JARVIS, ED KINMOUNT CATH. MISSION KINMOUNT CATH. CHURCH MACSHANE, JOHNE ROTHE, RUSSELL SCHMIDT, MARLYN SEXTON, LEO O.

TARCHINSKI, RAMON OSLO, MINN. WOINAROWICZ, ROMAN

OWATONNA, MINN. KRIESEL, DEAN H.

PARK RAPIDS, MINN. NESS, HENRY PICKAR, CHARLES TALAASEN, PALMER B.

PEQUOT LAKES, MINN. WILM, DAN PINE ISLAND, MINN.

LARSON, DAVID L. PINE RIVER, MINN.

POLANSKY, JOE PRINCETON, MINN.

PETERSON, CLAYTON RANIER, MINN.

BURBAGE, CHARLES H. CHAPMAN, JERE JEFFRIES, RAY OLSON, JANET PARISEAU, JOHN PARISEAU, VIOLET A. RAY, GEORGE C. STAGG, MICHAEL SWANBECK, ROLAND H. TOTH, RAY TRICKEL, RICHARD WATKINS, TIM R. YSEN, CURTIS

RAY, MINN.

ABBEY, DON ANDERSON, LAURENCE D. BERGGREN, ROBERT BOYLE, STEPHEN L. **BRANDRUP, MARIS** BROWN, GARY **BUSSEY, ANNE** CARSON, MIKE CONRAD, MARVIN DEGOOD, RALPH DUMOND, LESTER GARDEN, JOHN S. GREEN, W. A. GRIFFITH, JAMES W. HACH, LARRY

HARMONY BEACH RESORT MAYNARD, FLOYD MCGINNIS, L. B. MODER, ROGER PFANZ, GEORGE ROCKY POINT RESORT ROMIG, BILLIE D. ROSS, DONALD SOHLMAN, GLEN TILANDER, RICHARD WEIS, RICHARD **RED WING, MINN.** MULLER, THOMAS L. **RICHFIELD, MINN.** LARSON, MARVIN **ROBBINSDALE, MINN.** ANDERSON, LYLE **ROCHESTER, MINN.** BRANDT, MYRTLE I FF. ARCHIE **ROOSEVELT, MINN.** ALLARD, SUE VARGA ANDERSON, JOSEPH BALDWIN, JEFF BREKKE, JAY BROUSE, WILLIS J. CRADER, CLIFTON R. DUCKSTAD, TERESA GROVE, ARTHUR HIRSCHKORN, DARIN KIRBY, ELIZABETH KIRBY, TIM **KRUPICH, MICHELLE** LANDIN, ELOF LISLEGARD, EVELYN MILENDER, VERNON NELSON, LYLE PUTNEY, RODNEY REIHE, FARRELL REIHE, LISA RUSSELL, DON SCHELL, MARTIN R. SMITH, DANIEL SMITH, DAVID A SOULE, THOMSON P. SPARKS, JAMES UHLIG, W. M. ULLYOTT, JOEL VILAYSONE, LACKKY

ROSEAU, MINN. CROEKER, CEPHUS DUBORE, EDWARD ERICKSON, CLARENCE E. HAMANN, HERBERT HELSTAD, GARY HERLING, EDELIA NELSON, E. H. SNUSTAD, ESTHER WALLSTEN, GLADYS

ROSEVILLE, MINN. NELSON, JON R.

S. INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINN.

CRANDALL, LARRY DILWORTH, GEORGE KIRCHOFF, EDWARD V. KNUTSON, GERALDINE PEARSON, EVERETT ROGERS, BERNIECE

SAINT CLOUD, MINN. BRUSTAD, ROSS CHANDLER, MARK FRUTH, MARTIN HILL, R. R.

RANTA, WAINO SAINT PAUL, MINN. CILIBERTO, GERRY HANE, ETHEL JOHNSEN, RODNEY NESSE, PHILIP NEWMAN, OLIVER PAINTER, EREDERICK REINARZ, DOROTHY J. TIMMER, CHARLES M.

SALOL, MINN. MATTSON, ART VOLK, LAVERN SARTELL, MINN. TORSETH, BILL SAUK CENTRE, MINN. ANHORN, ARNEL J SAUK RAPIDS, MINN. RICHARDSON, B. L. SCANDIA, MINN. JOHNSON-LINDBERG JOHNSON, ALAN H. SHALEEN, GLENDON L. SEBEKA, MINN. HAASKEN, MICHAEL SHAKOPEE, MINN. EDEEN, DENNIS SHOREVIEW, MINN. JONES, TIMOTHY A. SIDE LAKE, MINN. CREGO, LORI HEISEL, ROBERT **KLEGSTAD, CHRIST** WINTERS, MARLIN STEPHEN, MINN. JENSEN, SIG NOREIKIS, FRANK JENSEN, HAROLD SWIFT, MINN. CHRISTIAN, HAROLD EMBURY, RUSSEL GIBSON, KENT J. GULLMAN, RONALD NELSON, SCOTT PROTZ, ROBERT TOWER, MINN. NOYES, WILLIAM VESTA, MINN. MALONE, CLIFFORD W. VIKING, MINN. DAHLE, MICHEAL VILLARD, MINN. SKURAT, RUSSELL VIRGINIA, MINN. EBERT, ANN M. EBERT, THEO FINSETH, IVEN OSTLING, MARY RAMQUIST, DANIEL D. SMOLENSKY, WILLIAM WELANDER, THOMAS WAHKON, MINN. SANTMIRE, RAY WAITE PARK, MINN. PRICE, AMY WARREN, MINN. LOESLIE, HARVEY WARROAD, MINN. ADAMS, MICHEAL BETTGER, KEN BRANDLI, DON BROWN, STACEY CHURCH OF CHRIST CYPHER, WILLIAM L.

WALTERS, CHARLIE WELLNER, GEO H. WOOD, RON

SOUTH HAVEN, MINN.

STRANDOUIST, MINN.

THIEF RIVER FALLS, MINN.

LIABRAATEN, ORVILLE O.

DOKKEN, JEEF DOWERS, DORIS B. HAGEN, DAVE HAMILTON, BRYAN KIMBLE, DAVID M. KINGERY, BRENT KLINE, VIVIENNE G. KOMPELIEN, HARVEY LORENZ, JOHN MCDOWELL, DAVID MILENDER, BYRON MOLSTAD, TIM NELSON, STEVE P. NORDGAARD, KELLY OLSON, DARREL OLSON, DUANE G. OLSONOSKI, ALLEYN PEARSON, GENE PEARSON, JOHN O. PEDERSEN, CARL PELLAND, DEBORAH **REGNIER, BRAD** SAVAGE, ROBERT SEELEY, HAROLD STEVENS, LAURA ULVIN, WARREN WACHSMUTH, G WALZ, SHELLEY WILLEMS, DAVID ZAVISKA, RUSSELL

WHITE BEAN, MINN. ANDERSON, MAXINE A. ESS, KEITH R. GAZDA, KENNETH KELLERMANN, RAYMOND

WILLIAMS, MINN.

AHLGREN, GORDON AXTELL, ROY BROWN, MARTY R. CALLIES, PATTIE DAVIS, EUGENE FAST, ROBERT L. FISH, AGNES L. FLATLAND, MAYNARD GILLIE, JOHN HARDWICK, MICHAEL L. HINTZ, LIQUEDA HOEFLER, VINCENT F. HOLLERUD, WALTER JOHNSON, ROBERT B. KEENAN, TIM KOCH, CHARLES F. LARSON, MARVIN E. MARTIN, LARRY MAUER, JOHN MOORMAN, ANITA NELSON, GREGORY NELSON, LARRY E. PAGNAC, MARY E. PROSSER, MIKE RADKE, JEFFREY RANGER, J.C. REMINGTON, TOM ROGINA, ROLAND SOLOMON, TERRY STARK, HENRY STORY, LESTER THOMAS, PAUL TRIMBLE, ANDREW WALKER, WILLIS F. WASHABAUGH, PATTIE P. WEDEL, WILLARD J.

WILLMAR, MINN. KENNARD, AMOS KENNARD, MARGARET

WINONA, MINN. SMIENS, ARLEN WIRT, MINN.

KLEGSTAD, ARNOLD

WOODBURY, MINN. MOYER, GEORGE W.

WYOMING, MINN. DE MARS, ANTHONY R. DEGIDIO, DON SWIFT, GERRY

ZIMMERMAN, MINN. CLOUTIER, KAREN

ZUMBROTA, MINN. LARSON, BRADLEY



Keep your children and babysitter safewhile you are away

eaving your children in the care of a babysitter can be a stressful experience. You have prepared the babysitter by going over instructions on the kids' routines, where to find needed supplies and important contact information. Did you also prepare your home? With a little preparation you can help ensure your children's safety and make your babysitter's life easier. Safe Electricity has tips to help you prevent electrical accidents in your home.

Your home's electrical system should be in good working order. Looking for and repairing electrical problems is an important step in preventing electrical accidents in your home (383-18-009-02, Kris M. Berthiaume). Cracked outlet covers and discolored outlets and switches are indications of electrical problems. These problems can lead to fires and electric shocks. Contact a professional to have your home inspected and repaired.

These additional tips from Safe Electricity can help increase safety awareness, eliminate electrical hazards, and put your mind at ease:

- Repair or dispose of damaged electronics and cords.
- Put cords out of sight so that children are not tempted to play with them.
- Use outlet covers or tamper resistant receptacles. Small fingers can easily fit into sockets, and curious children may poke objects into outlets. A tamper resistant outlet has a shutter system that only accepts electric plugs.
- Use ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection to prevent shocks. GFCIs detect and prevent dangerous situations where an electric shock could occur. You should have GFCIs anywhere that water and electricity may meet – such as bathrooms, kitchens and basements.
- ✓ Have a fire extinguisher that is rated for electrical fires.



Be sure your babysitter knows where it is located and how to use it.

- Have smoke alarms, and be sure their batteries work.
- ✓ Give your babysitter a tour of the home so they are familiar with exits.
- Be prepared for power outages. Have flashlights on hand, and let your babysitter know where they are.
- Have a list of emergency phone numbers that includes your utility.
- Look into available safety classes. Not-forprofits, hospitals and community centers in your area may offer classes to prepare people for situations they may encounter while babysitting.

You have gone through the time and effort to ensure that your children are in capable hands while you are away. With awareness and preparation, you can also help make sure that they are in the comfort of a safe home. For more information on electrical safety, visit **SafeElectricity.org**.

Quick as lightning, you could lose your life

ightning strikes the United States millions of times each year, and every strike is a potential killer. To keep your family safe, it is important to know what actions to take during a thunderstorm. There are many myths and old wives tales about lightning. Some of them just might get you killed.

There is no safe place from lightning when you are outside. To be as safe as possible you must seek shelter indoors or in an enclosed metal-topped vehicle when there is a thunderstorm in the area. A safe indoor shelter is defined as a substantial building with a full roof, walls and a floor. Unsafe structures include covered patios, open garages, picnic shelters and tents. A safe vehicle is one that is fully enclosed like a hard-topped car, minivan, truck, etc. Unsafe vehicles include convertibles, motorcycles, golf carts and any open cab vehicle.

The National Weather Service separates lightning myth from fact:

- Myth: Rubber tires on a car protect you from lightning by insulating you from the ground.
 Fact: Most cars are safe from lightning, but it is the metal roof and metal sides that protect you, NOT the rubber tires. Cars with fiberglass shells offer no protection from lightning. When lightning strikes a vehicle, it goes through the metal frame into the ground.
- **Myth:** A lightning victim is electrified. If you touch them, you will be electrocuted.

Fact: The human body does not store electricity. It is perfectly safe to touch a lightning victim to give them first aid.

- Myth: If outside in a thunderstorm, you should seek shelter under a tree to stay dry.
 Fact: Being underneath a tree is the second leading cause of lightning casualties.
- Myth: Structures with metal, or metal on the body (jewelry, cell phones, MP3 players, watches, etc.), attract lightning.
 Fact: Height, pointy shape and isolation are the dominant factors controlling where a lightning bolt will strike.
- Myth: If trapped outside and lightning is about to strike, I should lie flat on the ground.
 Fact: Lying flat increases your chance of being affected by potentially deadly ground current.
 If you are caught outside in a thunderstorm, you keep moving toward a safe shelter.

One good way to stay safe from the threat of lightning is to plan ahead. Listen to the forecast to know if there is a danger of severe weather, and make sure you can get to a safe location if a thunderstorm develops. Remember, if you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning. It is a good idea to heed the advice of the National Weather Service, "When thunder roars, go indoors."

Learn more about electrical safety at **SafeElectricity.org**.

The North Star Electric Cooperative annual meeting of the members is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 4, at the Littlefork/Big Falls High School. The Board of Directors positions up for election are **District 5 and 6 for a four-year term**.

Your district number is printed on your electric bill. If you are interested in a position on the Board of Directors, you may

pick up a petition form at our North Star Electric Cooperative office in either Littlefork or Baudette.

Please be advised that each membership of the North Star Electric Cooperative is allowed one signature, and in the case of joint membership, only one signature is allowed. (A husband and wife are not joint members unless they have completed a joint membership application.)

SECTION 3. QUALIFICATIONS.

All persons eligible to become or remain a director of the Cooperative shall:

(a) be a member in good standing of the Cooperative receiving electric service at the

member's primary residence in the district from which the director is to be elected prior to being nominated for director;

For purposes of these bylaws, "primary residence" shall mean the residence that is the chief or main residence of the person and where the person actually lives for the most substantial portion of the year;

(b) have voting rights within the district from which the director is to be elected;

(c) not be employed by, materially affiliated with or have a material financial interest in any director, individual or entity which either is:

(1) directly or substantially competing with the Cooperative; or

(2) selling goods and services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative; or

(3) possessing a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative;

For purposes of this section, the terms "material" or "substantially" shall be interpreted as constituting a minimum of 5 percent of a member's total hours of employment sales or income on an annual basis:

(d) not be an employee or not have been an employee of the Cooperative within the last three (3) years;

(e) not be a close relative of an employee, where as found in these bylaws

"close relative" means any individual who is, either by blood, law, or marriage, including step, half, foster and adoptive is either a spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, brother or sister.

(f) be only one, and not more than one, member of a joint membership; provided, however, that none shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold a

Nomination process for director election

As approved, with a Bylaw amendment by the membership, the Nominating Committees will not be used to identify candidates for director elections. Anyone interested in running for the North Star Electric Cooperative Board of Directors should review the following information from the North Star Electric Cooperative Bylaws Article IV, Board of Directors, Section 3, Qualifications, as well as the new nomination procedure, Article IV, Section 5, Nominations.

> position of trust in the Cooperative unless all shall meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth;

> (g) if a representative or agent of a member is not a natural person, i.e. a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or similar, then the representative or agent designated as a nominee for director shall be an individual residing within the external boundaries of the district from which (s)he is nominated; and

> (h) agree to regularly attend all board, annual and special members' meetings, and in no case have more than four (4) unexcused absences within a twelve (12) month period of time.

> Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board of directors.

> (i) Exceptions. In regard to the restrictive provisions of this section that are based upon close relative relationships, no incumbent director shall lose eligibility to remain a director or to be re-elected a director if, during a director's incumbency, a director becomes a first kindred relative of another incumbent director or of a Cooperative employee because of a marriage or an adoption to which the director was not a party.

(j) Disqualification. After the Board of

Directors determines that a director or a nominee for director lacks eligibility under the provisions of this section or as may be provided elsewhere in these bylaws, it shall be the duty of the board to promptly make a disqualification. After the Board of Directors determines that any person being considered for or already holding a directorship lacks eligibility under this section

it shall be the duty of the board of directors to withhold such position from such person or to cause a director to be removed therefrom, as the case may be.

SECTION 5. NOMINATIONS.

The procedures and methods of nominating candidates for election as a director of the cooperative are hereby established:

Nominations by Petition. Any twenty (20) or more members of a district of the cooperative may make nominations in writing over their signatures not less than sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting, and the Secretary of the board of directors shall post the petition at the principal office

of the cooperative, Baudette, Minnesota; such listing of nominations by petition may be mailed to each member through the medium of the cooperative newsletter.



Staff Report

W ell, it has been a month since I last reported to you. Back then we were dealing with an extended winter and frost conditions, but lately it's been the excessive amounts of rain to overcome. This has led to a slower start to the construction season for your co-op as well as for the local farmers (251-32-001-02, Betty E. Frohreich). We were able to complete the overhead to underground upgrade in the Wheeler's Point area and install a few new services before the big rain came.

We have completed our Voyageur National Park project where we installed 30,000 feet of underwater cable feeding the visitor center and maintenance facility. It was a good project to get done with the mainland as wet as it has been. I would like to thank the park service and its employees for help in the completion of this project.

Our contractor will be in the area by mid-June to start on our work plan projects, so when you see activity in your area, anticipate some blinks or short outage periods during construction. If you have a question or concerns, feel free to contact us. We have hired three apprentice linemen for the summer construction period. Tom



Marty Mollberg Manager of Operations

Jacklovich from North Dakota and James Sather from the Loman area will work out of the Littlefork office and Kevin Engholm from the Brainerd area will work out of the Baudette office. All three linemen are graduates from the M|State Lineman School in Baudette.

GSOC (Gopher State One-Call)... If you plan to dig, please remember it is the law that you MUST contact GSOC before you do any digging. 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!

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

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Senator Tom Bakk

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Capitol Building, Room 226 St. Paul, MN 55155-1606 651-296-8881 sen.tom.bakk@senate.mn

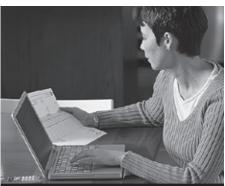
Senator Rod Skoe

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Capitol Building, Room 235 St. Paul, MN 55155-1606 651-296-4196 sen.rod.skoe@senate.mn Senator LeRoy Stumpf 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Capitol Building, Room 122 St. Paul, MN 55155-1606 651-296-8660 Email: Use mail form

Representative David Dill 571 State Office Building 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155 651-296-2190 800-339-0466 rep.david.dill@house.mn

Representative Roger Erickson 527 State Office Building 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155 651-296-4265 800-920-5867 rep.roger.erickson@house.mn

Representative Dan Fabian 307 State Office Building 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155 651-296-9635 888-727-0979 rep.dan.fabian@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 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



Member Appreciation Days – Baudette and Littlefork

We were pleased with the turnout at our 11th annual Member Appreciation Days. We had 206 register at Baudette and 152 register at Littlefork for a total of 358. The winners of the electric cart grill with rotisserie and cover were Bud Moorhead at Baudette and Brent Horne at Littlefork. The Lock-N-Go grill winners were Elwood Gubrud at Baudette and Terry Taylor at Littlefork.



Bud Moorhead from Baudette was the winner of the electric cart grill, rotisserie and cover.

A good crowd was at the Baudette location.





Tessa Pepera was kept busy explaining the proposal by the EPA on the issue of regional haze.



Members kept the linemen busy cooking and serving brats at Baudette.



The Littlefork turnout was strong.