

MAKE OUR VOICE HEARD – *Proposed rules impacting existing coal plants*

By Darrick Moe - June 3, 2014

Getting our message heard amidst the noise surrounding the issue of carbon requires unity and focus. June 2 brought the much-anticipated release of the EPA's proposed rules for limiting carbon emissions from existing power plants, referred to as "Section 111(d)" regulations. The authority underpinning the EPA's regulations limiting CO₂ for existing power plants is derived from Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act.

The proposed regulations are complex, weighing in at 645 pages, and are still being reviewed by MREA and our members. The EPA has indicated they will result in a 30 percent reduction in carbon emissions from power production across the country when measured between 2005 and 2030. However, each state has been given a target for reducing carbon emissions

from electric generators located within its boundaries by 2030. Those goals include a Minnesota target of a 40.6 percent reduction, a North Dakota target of a 10.6 percent reduction and a Wisconsin target of a 34.2 percent reduction, as measured against carbon emission rates in 2012. These targets apply to the state as a whole; the proposal does not set out limits on individual power plants. There appears to be a significant amount of flexibility left to each state in developing and implementing a plan to achieve these targets. To what degree steps taken prior to 2012 can be considered in getting to the targets is not immediately clear.

The EPA set a gloomy precedent by proposing rules in September 2013 for new power plants that would make it impossible to build new coal plants without a carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) system. The Great Plains Synfuels Plant, owned by Dakota Gasification Company, a subsidiary of Basin Electric, converts coal to gases and liquids and has successfully shipped CO₂ to the world's largest carbon capture and storage project in the oil fields of Saskatchewan, Canada. (Technically, the carbon capture occurs at the plant. It's the storage that takes place in the oil fields of Saskatchewan.) However, this is a rare example of a commercially successful CCS application. Numerous technical and legal obstacles must be overcome before CCS could be widely applied. This limitation, along

with numerous additional regulatory and economic factors, makes the prospects for building new coal plants daunting indeed.

With the release of the proposed rules in June, the regulatory push turns to coal plants already built, producing power and being paid for within our existing rates. Rural electric cooperatives around the nation are heavily invested in coal, due in part to the build out of a substantial portion of our generation fleet during the period covered by the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978, which prohibited building new natural gas plants. According to Energy Information Administration (EIA) data, cooperatives across the nation rely on coal for 58 percent of their energy, compared to 45 percent of the electric industry as a whole.

Plant owners have installed emissions control technology to reduce a wide range of pollutants. Unfortunately, technology doesn't exist to "scrub carbon" from a plant's emissions. Therefore, analyzing what steps are available for plant owners to respond to the rules will be a major cause for concern and discussion.

The rules unveiled in June are proposed, commencing a period during which the EPA will collect comments. We must weigh in effectively at this stage to have hope of impacting the final rules.

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JULY 2014

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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.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Highlights from the BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the board of directors' June 4 meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine action, the board voted to approve the inventory adjustment, to approve the retirement (payment) of \$603,000 of capital credits this fall, to approve the transfer of unpaid final bills and to compose a letter to the EPA asking for an extended comment period on proposed regulations.

Staff reports included the financial report, increased interest in off-peak electric heat, new rebates available for off-peak electric heat, the solar demonstration project and the recent meeting with members in Big Falls regarding the cable replacement project to decrease outages and increase reliability. Construction on this project should be underway by mid-June and is anticipated to continue over the next couple of years, as additional phases will be incorporated into the new work plan. Board reports

included the Minnkota monthly board meeting and Director Hanson's testimony at an EPA hearing.

Guests included MREA (Minnesota Rural Electric Association) CEO Darrick Moe, M-State's Wadena Campus Dean of Students Monty Johnson and Gary Hull, the instructor at the M-State Technical College's electrical line worker training program at the Baudette campus. Mr. Moe visited with the board about legislative activity. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Hull presented a plaque of appreciation from the college to the North Star Electric Cooperative board of directors.

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.

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*Based on North Star Electric average residential usage of 875 kWh per month at the residential rate of \$.11/kWh + Minnkota surcharge of \$.004/kWh
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Dan Hoskins
General Manager

MANAGER'S REPORT

Hi folks, hope all is well and you are enjoying the warm weather that has finally arrived. I have to tell you this – the other day my wife, Sharon, and I were enjoying a cup of coffee, looking out the window and watching the orioles feed on the grape jelly and the hummingbirds eat the sweet nectar Sharon had put out for them. She said, “Look at the hummingbirds, there must be five or six of them!” but I said, “Look closer, those aren’t hummingbirds, they’re mosquitoes!” Well anyway, I pulled your leg on that one, but if you go outside, some of those mosquitoes sure do look like they are as big as hummingbirds!

As of this writing, we pray that the water levels recede so no more damage is done to anyone and we keep everyone who is being affected by floodwaters in our thoughts. This is so devastating watching homes, businesses and other personal properties being ravished by the water. So if you are not able to help in any way, a prayer is always welcome!

On another note, we have our solar unit up and running. It’s a 5-kV unit and if you happen to be by our Baudette headquarters, you are welcome to stop in and check it out. Our intent, by putting in a unit of our own, is that we can use it as a training tool for our employees and for any member who would like to learn more about solar. We are also hoping that the lineman’s training facility next door can possibly use it for training (252-01-007-51, James Honsvall). Plus, we will monitor the system and give anyone interested accurate data. Also, anyone can stop in to look the system over and get information on cost comparisons.

As you well know, the EPA has sent out its plans for 30 percent carbon reduction by 2030. This is an accumulated number as all states are different, so Minnesota has to cut emissions by 40.6 percent and North Dakota has to cut them 10.6 percent. The jury is still out on what is next or how much this is going to cost all of us, but if I were to guess, we will end up pulling out our checkbooks again!

And here’s another little ditty for you from our friends at the EPA. They have proposed a rule that would amend the current definition of “Waters of the U.S.” in the Clean Water Act (CWA), which has been in place for more than 25 years, and would expand the range of waters and their conveyances that fall under federal regulation. If adopted, most everyone would be significantly affected. The proposal would eliminate the distinction between bodies of water – like rivers and lakes – and roadside ditches and drains. Costs and permitting times for projects related to many types of water not currently under federal jurisdiction would also increase.

Director Mike Hanson attended a meeting on this proposal in St. Paul. Although he was in line to testify, by the time all the upper class folks like Deputy Associate Administrator Mark Rupp, EPA Administrator Region 5 Susan Hedman, St. Paul

Mayor Coleman and current EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said their piece, patted each other on the back and left. This meeting was one of four in the nation and was not well advertised or publicized. If they are changing the rule to allow themselves to take over the water rights or expand their control of the water rights, shouldn’t this be just a little bit more out front for all of us to see? Mike said there wasn’t much of an audience to talk to, maybe 25 folks. There were supposed to be 100 positions for testifying, but only nine did! Let’s just say that Director Hanson was not impressed with the way it, the EPA, handled its informational meeting on this very controversial matter, but we do thank Director Hanson for attending.

The new CEO of our Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), Darrick Moe, was in our neck of the woods and attended a North Star board meeting where he introduced himself and addressed our board on what MREA will be doing in the coming year. We do appreciate Darrick coming to our cooperative and taking time out of his schedule to address our board and spend some time with us, so thank you Darrick.

Aside from attending the board meeting, Darrick and I, along with Director Hanson and Director Brzoznowski, toured the Neutrino site over by the Ash River Trail. This is quite a scientific lab where they study subatomic particles called “neutrinos.” Ron, our tour guide, said they have “caught” (... or whatever they do) four of them so far this year. Of course, Director Brzoznowski said he has a quart jar full in his basement that he has caught! Anyway, if you get a chance to visit this facility, you should. Superintendent Bill Miller and his staff welcome visitors and give tours at certain times.

And lastly for this report is our recently held Member Appreciation Days at our two locations, which I might add, were big successes. We registered 150 members at our Littlefork service center and 242 members at our headquarters in Baudette. Loretta Reese from Big Falls and Steve Bovendam from Baudette were the winners of an electric cart grill, rotisserie and cover given at each location. The winners of a Lock-N-Go grill, which were also given at each location, were Harvey Lindquist from Littlefork and Bruce Sundvall from Baudette.

This year we had just a teeny bit more focus on the youth of our area and provided them with numerous things to do and eat, including face painting, bucket truck rides, a coloring station, cotton candy, popcorn and balloons. We also gave away boys and girls bicycles at each location. In Littlefork, we registered 63 kids and the winners of the bikes were Payton Grashorn and Owen Peterson. In Baudette, we registered 74 kids and the winners of the bikes were Rose Kingbird and Chris Foss. I think we may have some future linemen in this bunch as more than half of them took bucket truck rides and some went two or even three times.

Anyway, thanks to all our employees and directors who helped make this a smooth running success and thank you to all you members who were able to attend; it wouldn’t have been such a success without your participation!

God bless you and our troops, Dan

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There is no lack of ‘big things’ to fill our time. This qualifies as one.

- *How will the proposed rules impact the cost of delivering electricity to our members?*
- *What avenues are available to achieve the targets?*
- *How will the proposals impact the reliability of the power system?*

The rules are complex and require coordination among numerous parties.

During MREA’s recent visit to the Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., we highlighted this issue for our congressional delegation and specifically noted the need for a comment period of at least 120 days. Several members of Minnesota’s congressional delegation have signed onto a letter to the EPA emphasizing this point. Fortunately, this request

has been heard. The EPA will allow for 120 days to review and comment on this proposal.

Every cooperative member can take action today to weigh in on this important issue. Simply go to **www.action.coop**. In about one minute, you can generate a note to the EPA letting them know how important a balanced approach on this issue is to our future.

The administration has increased its focus on climate change. “The proposed curbs will form the cornerstone of Obama’s climate action plan,” according to a May 23, 2014, *Reuters* article. The article indicates the public outreach over the past year “mark an unprecedented campaign by the White House and the EPA to win broad public and state backing for the rules.” Meteorologists around the

country have been added to the ranks of the foot soldiers in the debate, and the entire administration, including the President, has put substantial focus on this announcement.

We also recognize this priority. Unity of message is crucial. The G&Ts and MREA will work together to review the proposed rules and determine how to react to them. We will be sharing initial reactions and searching for a common path forward. MREA will work with you and our cooperative family across the state and within the Co-op Nation to coalesce around a common message and get our voice heard.

How you can clean up with laundry efficiency

Many people look for ways to save money on electric bills and become more efficient. One way to stop money from going down the drain is to clean up with laundry efficiency.

You can begin by only doing full loads of laundry. Washing machines use about the same amount of energy regardless of the size of load. So, doing one large load instead of several small ones will save on energy costs.

Another way to save is with the water temperature. While using hot water helps remove stains in clothing, heating up the water runs up the cost of the electric bill, not to mention it can also shrink and fade clothing. Using

cold water will not only clean your clothes, but also reduce energy costs.

There are many ways to save money while drying clothes. Primarily, the best way is to not use a drying machine. Whenever you

have the opportunity, you should use a drying rack or clothesline to dry your clothes.

However, the weather does not always cooperate, nor does everyone have access to a clothesline. If this is the case, use a high-speed spin cycle in the washer to help remove excess water before placing clothes in the dryer to reduce the drying time. Additionally, if your dryer has a moisture-sensing option, use it. After every use of the dryer, clean the lint trap and the dryer vent for better circulation and to prevent a fire hazard.

While you can take simple steps to save energy doing the laundry, you can also save money depending on the time of day you run your washer and dryer.



Avoid doing laundry during peak hours when electricity is being used more frequently and is most expensive. This time is typically anywhere

between 2 and 8 p.m. However, peak hours can vary by location and time of year, so check with your electric provider to find out the peak hours in your location.

If you are upgrading your washer and dryer, make sure to purchase appliances with the ENERGY STAR® label. Products certified by ENERGY STAR® draw smaller than average amounts of electricity when not in use or turned off. For more tips on home efficiency, visit **EnergyEdCouncil.org**.



Ann Ellis
Assistant General Manager/
Finance Manager

Staff Report

Good times!

Aside from the flooding issues and the latest proposed EPA regulation of carbon dioxide on existing power plants, we have had some good times this last month. We've had a chance to visit with so many members at the two

open houses, at the meeting in Big Falls to discuss the cable replacement project and then again with the folks before they left the office on the power plant tour to North Dakota.

I am pleased with the number of you who tell us you are reading this newsletter, and I can tell by the knowledge you are sharing with us, that you're not just looking to see if you are one of the monthly prize winners. Our membership is diverse, and hearing all of your varying viewpoints helps us carve out the path that the majority dictates. Thank you for your frankness.

Speaking of franks, I think the brats at the open houses were even better than in past years. Maybe that's because we were just extra happy when all the kids showed up this year. The change from May to June, plus adding the bucket truck rides for the kids and the drawings for bicycles, certainly impacted the attendance of our next generation of members. The air was almost electric as three young boys in Littlefork held their breath as the drawing for a bike was being pulled out of the box (664-14-037-01, Russel R. Spry). What was so great was that when the winner's name was read, they looked at each other with excitement and one blurted out, "Owen Peterson! I know him!"

These kids won't be kids for long. They will be our future, and we want them to know who we are. The generation of members who remember the hardships of not having central station electricity is almost gone. Almost no one these days can say they remember the day the lights came on when their rural electric cooperative brought power to their rural home or farm. We must make sure that our young people understand why their rural electric cooperative is different and special.

Community Support

The communities here up north are great, and the hard

working volunteers who keep it that way need and deserve our help. We encourage our employees to be active volunteers. Unclaimed capital credits help fund worthy tax-exempt projects. Operation Round Up provides another funding source. The Operation Round Up trust board met Monday, June 30, for its semiannual meeting to distribute the rounded up amounts you have authorized, which adds up to about \$9,000.

At Wednesday's board meeting (July 2), the LakeWood ambulance squad was \$10,000 closer to purchasing a pair of hydraulic-lift cots for its ambulances. Half of this donation will come from unclaimed capital credits and the other half will come from one of our lenders, CoBank, from its Sharing Success fund. These cots will take some of the weight (literally) off the backs of our EMTs, and allow them to volunteer longer. Last year we donated the same amount to the Kabetogama EMTs. Like I said, our volunteers need and deserve our help, so thank you for your participation and support.

Do you have unclaimed capital credits?

If you are reading this, we certainly should have your correct address, but maybe you have family or friends who have moved away. You can find the list on our website, www.nse.coop. Click on the News tab, then *Enlightener*, and finally the link to the June 2014 *Enlightener*. If you find someone you know, please have them contact us.

Breaking news

If we have a major situation happening, like the recent two-hour outage from Pitt to Lake of the Woods, or the power blinks on June 27 that were caused by three mylar party balloons tangled on the Minnkota transmission line near the insulator, you may have trouble getting through to us on the phones, but you will have no trouble getting instant information if you check us out on Facebook. I know ... for those of you not "on" Facebook, I'm right there with you, but you don't need to have a Facebook account. Simply go to www.facebook.com/NorthStarElectric to read North Star's posts. "Like" us, and stay in touch!

At your service, we remain ... Ann

Current electrical inspectors

State law requires that every new electrical installation in any construction, remodeling, replacement or repair shall file a certificate for inspection and be inspected by a Minnesota electrical inspector. For more information go to Minnesota Department of Labor and Industries website (dli.mn.gov) and go to the electrical page.

• Lake of the Woods, St. Louis and Koochiching counties:

Curt Collier (cgcollier67@gmail.com)
Phone: (218) 966-5070
Call to set up an appointment between
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)

• Roseau county:

Scott Stenvik
Phone: (218) 689-5406
Call to set up an appointment between
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)



Member Appreciation Days

We were pleased with the turnout at our 12th annual Member Appreciation Days. We had 150 members and 63 kids in Littlefork and 242 members and 74 kids in Baudette register for prizes. The winners of the electric cart grill with rotisserie and cover were Loretta Reese from Big Falls and Steve Bovendam from Baudette. The Lock-N-Go grill winners were Harvey Lindquist from Littlefork and Bruce Sundvall from Baudette. The kids' drawing for bikes went to Payton Grashorn and Owen Peterson at Littlefork and Rose Kingbird and Chris Foss at Baudette.



(Left) I give
this party two
thumbs up!

Posting on utility poles creates hazards

G arage sale signs, birthday party balloons and lost pet posters have all been stapled or nailed to utility poles. While these items might be easy to spot by community members, posting anything on utility poles can be dangerous – even life threatening – to the professional line workers who maintain our lines of electricity, communication and other services. Safe Electricity urges everyone to help keep utility poles free of such materials.

With sharp objects sticking out of utility poles, line workers risk injuring themselves and damaging their safety equipment. The clamped safety boots used by line workers to climb poles are vulnerable to becoming snagged on staples and nails embedded in posts.

Despite the safety gear worn by line workers to avoid contact with rough surfaces, objects used to attach signs to poles can poke through gloves, boots and protective clothing and cut the line workers.

While a tear in clothing may seem insignificant to the average Joe, it may be the difference between life and death for a line worker, as it is the protective gear that stands as the first line of defense between the line worker and the power line that carries several thousand volts of electricity.

Additionally, these objects attached to utility poles must be removed before line workers can scale the pole to do their job. When these line workers have to take time to remove a sign or balloons, it is wasting their valuable time.

The materials posted on poles can also degrade the wood's quality. Over time, water will seep into the holes created by nails, staples and tacks and deteriorate the wood at a faster pace. This means poles will become weaker and will need to be replaced more frequently.

Poles not structurally sound pose a safety hazard for pedestrians as they walk by and increase the risk of failure if the pole is struck by a vehicle. In addition, posting items to utility poles is usually a violation of local ordinances. People caught posting items on utility poles can face a fine.

Safe Electricity hopes you will do your part to help utility employees work safely and refrain from hanging objects on utility poles.

For more information on safety around electricity, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Owen Peterson was the winner of the boys bike at Littlefork.



Chris Foss was the boys bike winner at Baudette.



Steve Bovendam was the electric cart grill winner at Baudette.



Rose Kingbird was the winner of the girls bike at Baudette.



Bruce Sundvall was the winner of the Lock-N-Go grill at Baudette.



The North Star Electric Cooperative annual meeting of the members is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 3, at Lake of the Woods School. The Board of Directors positions up for election are **District 2 and 3 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

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.

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.

or remain a director or to hold a 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



www.mnhousing.gov

Fixing up your home? We can help.



Minnesota Housing partners with Border State Bank to provide loans for repairs, remodeling, installation of electric off-peak heat, and energy saving improvements. The Minnesota Housing Fix Up loan program offers affordable fixed interest rates with loan amounts up to \$50,000.



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Get started on a loan today by contacting your local Border State Bank:



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Pay by Phone (24/7)

New Payment Card Industry (PCI) regulations designed to protect consumers have caused North Star Electric to change the way we take payments over the telephone to help protect your financial information. All calls made to make a payment will be transferred to an automated, secure payment line that uses an automated voice response system. To reach this payment line directly, please call **1-855-874-5354**. You are more than welcome to call our office at **218-634-2202** or **888-634-2202** to discuss your account, but please note that our customer service representatives will not be able to accept payments directly. They will need to transfer your call to the secure payment line. Please note you can still make payments at the office, on our website or through our SmartHub mobile app.

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NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE POLITICAL LEADERS

Federal legislators

President Barack Obama

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Senator LeRoy Stumpf

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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.**

Grand Rapids, MN 55744-3984
Toll free 1-877-687-1163
Direct 1-218-999-0800
Fax 218-999-0220

**Arrowhead Economic
Opportunity Agency**

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



North Dakota *receives high marks for air quality*

A recent report from the American Lung Association (ALA) shows that North Dakota remains one of the states with the most pristine air quality.

In the report, eight North Dakota counties received straight A's for either ozone and/or particulate compliance (783-28-007-03, Mildred Ballan). The eight counties, which are chosen because of major population centers or proximity to national parks and grasslands, include Billings, Burke, Burleigh, Cass, Dunn, McKenzie, Mercer and Oliver.

Oliver County is home of the Milton R. Young Station, Minnkota's primary source of generation.

Terry O'Clair, director of the air quality division for the North Dakota Department of Health, notes that the ALA rankings look at only particulate and ozone but North Dakota is one of only a handful of states in the nation that meets all of the federal ambient air quality standards.

The lignite industry is an example of this partnership. Utilities that operate the seven coal-based power plants have invested more than \$2 billion in clean coal technologies that reduce emissions. About half of that sum has been invested in the last five years to reduce more sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides.

When your power goes out, so do we.

When storms hit and the lines are down, we roll up our sleeves and go to work. No matter what Mother Nature throws our way, we won't quit until the lights are back on in every home and business we serve.

But it's not just disasters that bring out the best in us. It's the everyday effort we make in improving reliability and adding new technology to better serve you. We don't just provide electricity; we provide a powerful value in your life – each and every day.



Powerful Value
Every day.