

MOVING POWER

As power lines weave throughout the North Star Electric Cooperative service territory, members are tied into a complex network that is essential to providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

At a time when renewable energy generation and energy efficiency are priorities, the success of each is dependent upon a well-maintained transmission system.

However, the complicated aspect of producing near continuous electric service is that electricity must be used, or moved to where it can be used, immediately after it's produced. It cannot be stored like water or gas. This means that transmission must be carefully monitored, utilizing an intricate system to move it 24 hours a day, notes the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, which oversees reliability of the electric transmission grid covering the United States.

"The national electric transmission grid has been described as the largest machine ever built," said Wally Lang, Minnkota Power Cooperative vice

president - transmission. "Generators in North Dakota are running in synchronism with the generators in Miami (Fla.). That's pretty amazing when you think about it. Across an entire continent, all of these generators are connected together through transmission lines. And trying to keep it in balance is no small task."

Electric cooperatives own and maintain roughly 65,000 miles, or 6 percent, of the nation's transmission lines and 2.5 million miles, or 42 percent, of its distribution lines, according to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Minnkota Power Cooperative, our wholesale power supplier, owns and maintains 3,062 miles of transmission line, ranging from 41,600 volts to 345,000 volts.

At the speed of light

Electricity moves at the speed of light along the path of least resistance, a basic principle that reflects the need for a carefully monitored, intricate system for moving electricity 24 hours a day. Scott Gates of the NRECA likens the massive electric grid to a series

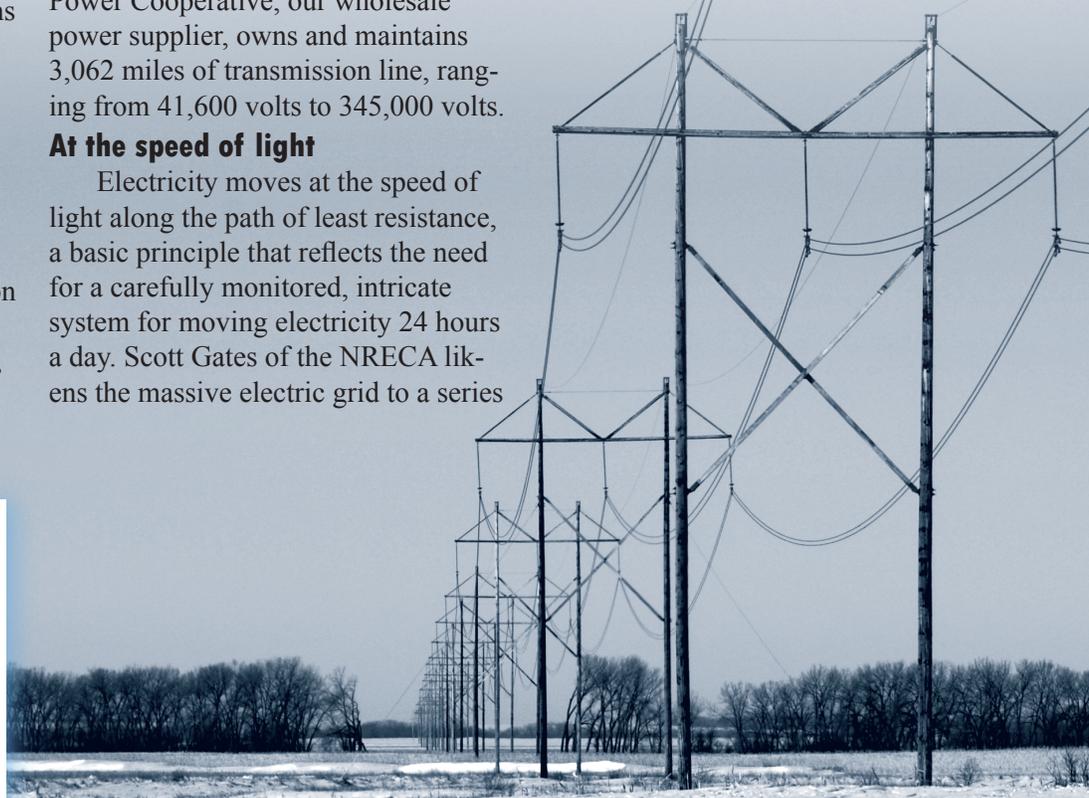
of "highways." Transmission lines serve as the high-voltage "interstates" supported by steel towers and other similar structures. In Minnkota's case, those lines move our electricity from Center, N.D. Distribution lines run through small towns and rural areas to power homes, schools and businesses.

In reality, the power needed to turn on a single light could have been produced less than a second ago, making its way from the Milton R. Young Station located near Center.

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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.

Gopher State One Call



It's the LAW
CALL BEFORE YOU DIG
Minnesota Statewide One Call
Notification Center
1-800-252-1166

•••• Current electrical inspectors ••••

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

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

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

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Phone: (218) 689-5406
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)

Highlights from the **BOARDROOM**

These are the highlights from the Board of Directors meeting held March 10, 2010. The board acted upon usual, routine business and voted to request bids for auditing services and to select the co-op's representatives for the Minnkota and Square Butte boards.

Staff reports were provided and included the financial report, the rate increase, protecting members from identity theft, energy conservation rebates, plans for the member appreciation open house in May, achievement of no lost time accidents since October 2003, a slower construction season is ahead, seeking used equipment to replace the co-op's

digger truck, meeting with members from the Littlefork area and exploring the possibility of Baudette being a remote training location for Wadena's electrical line workers school.

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

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



When shopping for a new clothes dryer, look for one with a moisture sensor that automatically shuts off the machine when your clothes are dry. Not only will it save energy, it will save wear and tear on your clothes caused by over-drying.

Member Appreciation Day

On Wednesday, May 12, please join us at the Baudette office from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. and on Thursday, May 13, at the Littlefork office from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. There will be refreshments with brats, chips and popcorn. Register for prizes as there will be drawings for both adults and children. Pick up balloons for the kids and watch an electrical safety demonstration.



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

For energy-saving ideas go to **togetherwesave.com.**

MOVING POWER *(continued from page 1)*

Minnkota generates most of its energy from the Milton R. Young and Coyote power plants. Electricity produced by Young 1 and Coyote generating stations is carried by a 214-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to a substation near Fargo, N.D. From there it flows over other high-voltage lines and into a sub-transmission system to serve the needs of consumers of the distribution cooperatives and municipals.

(Minnkota plans to build a 345-kV line that will transfer Young 2's output to the Prairie substation located near Grand Forks, N.D. The 260-mile, \$300 million transmission line will help the northern Red River Valley service area with additional voltage support.)

At this point, the voltage is stepped down and the electricity is delivered to substations in the Minnkota service area. The electricity is then sold to North Star Electric Cooperative, where it is distributed on our own lines to member-owners.

Improvements needed

The electric transmission grid has evolved and expanded during the last century. As more renewable energy projects such as wind farms come on line, it's clear not only that the transmission grid is being asked to do more than originally thought, but also that investments are necessary to improve our transmission system.

"There are ways to optimize transmitting power across

systems over long distances on existing lines," Lang said. "However, at some point you're going to have to make investments in bulk transmission to get these increased power flows."

Federal climate change policy is reliant upon the ability to improve the transmission system. Various forms of renewable energy, including wind, suffer from the limitation of being produced in an area that isn't very populated. For remote renewable facilities to be as beneficial as possible, transmission lines also must be built to benefit the growing need for energy.

"Lots of improvements have been made to enable us to transmit a lot more power than anybody could have ever visualized," Lang said. "It's these enhancements in control and protection schemes that have enabled a lot more renewable energy to be absorbed than anybody could have envisioned."

Increasing transmission efficiency to better use and move electricity can potentially reduce the need for more generation and related transmission in the near future (556-45-026-17, Daniel Seesing).

"Our power system, like a high-performance car, is only as good as its transmission," Lang said. "In other words, you can have a big engine under the hood, but if you don't have a good transmission to get the power to the wheels, you're not going to get very far."



What's that sound and smell?

Check for CFL burnout

Most people know that a pop and flash before an incandescent bulb goes dark means it has burned out. But you might not be familiar with the slightly more dramatic burnout of a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL).

CFLs not only operate differently from incandescent bulbs, using about 75 percent less energy, they also burn out differently.

As a CFL approaches the end of its life, expect the light to dim. When it does burn out, you may hear a more dramatic pop than with an incandescent bulb, and you could smell a distinct odor. The bulb might even produce smoke, while the base of the bulb might turn black. None of these things

should cause concern. In fact, popping and smoke means the bulb's end-of-life mechanism is working correctly.

To ensure you're using CFLs safely, take two precautions. Before you buy, check the packaging for the mark of an independent safety testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories. That label means the bulbs have been tested repeatedly for safety hazards.

Also, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggests placing the burned out or broken bulb in a plastic bag, which should be sealed before bringing it to the recycling center. Never send a CFL or other mercury-containing product in the trash or incinerator.

The vampires lurking in your home

By Brian Sloboda, Cooperative Research Network

Vampires have frightened people for generations. The fangs, the wings, the immortality: it's scary stuff.

Though that's all legend – a subject for movies and Halloween costumes – a different breed of vampire could be lurking in your home right now. These vampires don't drink blood; they consume electricity.

An energy vampire, also called a phantom or parasitic load, is any device that consumes electricity when turned "off." These electronic devices provide the modern-day conveniences we love, but they also waste energy and cost us money.

Vampire loads can be found in almost every room of a home, though a favorite spot is the entertainment center. When the television is turned off, it isn't really off. It's sitting there, waiting patiently for someone to press the 'on' button of the remote – and waiting uses energy. TVs also use energy to remember channel lineups, language preferences and the time. VCRs, DVD players, DVRs, and cable or satellite boxes also use energy when turned off.

The problem is significant. According to a study conducted by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the average home loses 8 percent of its monthly energy consumption to these energy vampires. A full 75 percent of the power used to run home electronics is consumed when those appliances are turned off, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Common energy vampires include:

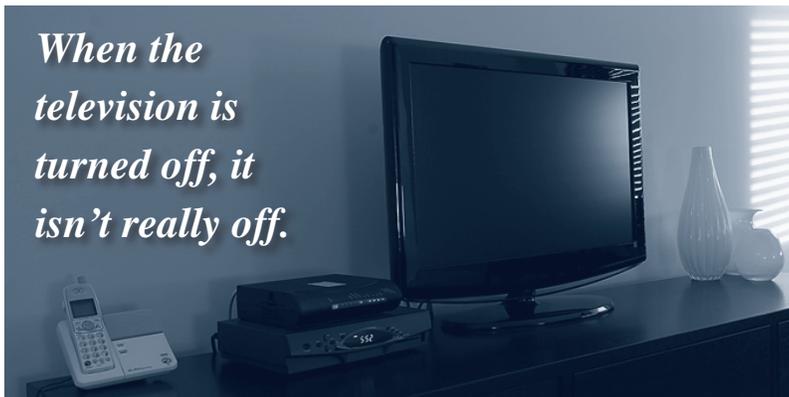
- TVs;
- Stereos;
- VCRs, DVD players and DVRs;
- Cable-satellite boxes;
- Computers;
- Battery chargers.

According to the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the average electric co-op residential member consumes roughly 13,900 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per year. If 8 percent of this power is consumed when electronics are turned off, the average home wastes 1,112 kWh annually. Assuming a cost of \$0.10 per kWh, the average household spends \$111 per year to pay for these vampire loads.

The good news is a sharp stake isn't necessary to kill off these vampires (unlike their TV and movie counterparts). To eliminate the power consumption of an energy vampire, simply unplug the device or plug it into a power strip and use the power strip's switch to eliminate electricity to everything plugged into it. Power strips work like an extension of the wall outlet. They cut all power to plugs completely when they are switched off.

Of course, there's always a catch. Some devices use standby power to make life more convenient. If you unplug your television or cable-satellite receiver box, what happens? When plugged back in, the TV or set top box usually will have to run its initial setup program. Depending on the particular device, it could take up to 20 minutes for channels to be recognized or for the

When the television is turned off, it isn't really off.



user to reset preferences, which isn't something most are willing to do every day.

But there are numerous devices in the home that can be unplugged easily and safely, or plugged into a power strip without causing any inconvenience. Computer equipment, such as printers, scanners, desktop computers and broadband modems, can be "unplugged" without harm. Cell phone, tool and other battery chargers also should be unplugged when not in use. Even though the charger is not charging anything, it is still drawing power.

A new device called the "smart" strip is beginning to find its way onto store shelves. Smart power strips allow you to plug devices into a specially marked section of the power strip so they will still have power when turned off. Other devices that can be turned off safely are plugged into the rest of the strip. This allows you to turn off parts of a home entertainment system, such as the stereo, DVD player or home theater audio system without losing the ability to record programs to a DVR or having to reprogram the television every time you want to watch a show.

For devices that cannot be turned off, consumers should look for Energy Star-certified devices or ask the salesperson about a device's standby power consumption. There can be big differences in power consumption between manufacturers and sometimes even between models from the same manufacturer.

As in the movies, it is impossible to kill off all of the energy vampires in your home – but every energy vampire vanquished will mean that much less of a bite out of your wallet.

Brian Sloboda is a program manager specializing in energy efficiency for the Cooperative Research Network, a service of the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The Cooperative Research Network monitors, evaluates and applies technologies that help electric cooperatives control costs, increase productivity and enhance service to their consumers.

Typical Power Consumption of Household Items in Watts (Courtesy E Source)

Device	On	Standby Mode	Off
40-inch LCD TV	200	–	1–3
42-inch Plasma TV	240–320	–	1–30
DVD player	13	10	2.3
Stereo	123	–	23.4
Xbox 360	173	168	2.2
Nintendo Wii	17	10	1
Power tool battery charger	33.7	4.2	–
Coffee maker	1,100	70	0.8

EPA should follow the law, not make it



By Congressman Collin Peterson

You might not have heard much about it, but there are Democrats and Republicans in Congress who are working together and as a result, a bipartisan consensus is beginning to emerge on energy policy in the United States. The basic outline should sound familiar: some kind of pricing mechanism on carbon emissions; an all-of-the-above approach to energy, including coal, nuclear, natural gas, biomass, wind and solar; developing new technologies like smart grids and carbon capture technology; and finally, having elected representatives of the people – not unelected bureaucrats – make the decisions that shape these policies.

Because Congress has not been able to finish and pass this needed energy policy legislation, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is moving ahead on its own and is focusing on just one piece of this puzzle – emissions. I am working with others to stop the EPA from doing this, but even if we're successful, it will only be a temporary solution. And if we fail to stop them, the EPA's regulatory actions could undo all of the bipartisan work that's been done up to now and damage the prospects for passing a bipartisan energy bill.

As you may know, the EPA, in response to a 2005 Supreme Court decision confirming that greenhouse gases are "air pollutants" according to existing law, is preparing to use the Clean Air Act to curb carbon emissions from power plants, manufacturers and other large polluters. The EPA administrator all but admits this is an ultimatum

to Congress: pass a bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, or the EPA will do it anyway. I have no confidence that the EPA can regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act without severely harming the interests of consumers, investors and taxpayers in general.

The Clean Air Act was never meant to be used this way and it is not the proper tool for this task. Taking the EPA's approach in this instance is like using a chain saw when what we need is a scalpel. The Clean Air Act – a good law that is meant to clean up air pollutants that directly endanger public health or welfare – was never intended to mitigate climate change. The Clean Air Act has been effective in removing lead and carbon monoxide from the air we breathe, but even the most passionate environmentalist will confess that there are better ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Removing toxins harmful to our health from the air we breathe is something entirely different from removing the gases that exacerbate the greenhouse effect, which, in turn, may – "may" – endanger public health.

There are quite a few problems with the EPA's proposed regulatory approach in this instance. The Clean Air Act would require coal power plants to implement the best available technology to reduce emissions,

but technology of that nature does not yet exist. And although the EPA administrator says she has no plans to regulate small emitters like hospitals, churches or high schools, it is unclear if she has a choice under the current law. I do not doubt that the administrator is expressing what she believes to be true, but that there is any legal debate at all only demonstrates that the Clean Air Act was not meant to reduce greenhouse gas

emissions. The EPA needs to seek new authority from Congress if it wants to fight climate change.

All of this has convinced me that the EPA should stop its unilateral attempt

to go around Congress and reduce emissions on its own. That's why I support efforts to change the Clean Air Act, to "veto" the EPA's proposed regulations and to deny funding for these purposes.

In the end, the only way we may strip this authority from the EPA is by returning to the bipartisan political consensus I referred to earlier. We must pass an "all-of-the-above" energy bill that both parties can support. Our energy and environmental problems can be solved, but it will take hard work, political compromise and a piece of bipartisan legislation in Congress. And without that kind of legislation, the EPA will be unrestrained and free to pursue its own regulation-driven agenda.

"The EPA should stop its unilateral attempt to go around Congress and reduce emissions on its own. That's why I support efforts to change the Clean Air Act, to "veto" the EPA's proposed regulations and to deny funding for these purposes."

Staff Report



Ann Ellis
Manager of Finance
and Administration

Scholarships

Competition for a North Star Electric Co-op scholarship is not fierce. Last year only 35 students took the cooperative knowledge test. There are 13 winners, and the top prize is a \$1,000 scholarship. The study materials are just a few pages. Four more scholarships are awarded, and students scoring at least 50 percent are eligible for eight other random drawings. Our objective is twofold. First, we know our graduating seniors may be future members. It is beneficial for North Star to have members who understand why a nonprofit rural electric cooperative is different from other types of utilities. Second, higher education is expensive, and we'd like to help. In addition to the competition scholarships, North Star sponsors additional scholarships through local organizations, such as Dollars for Scholars.

If you have a high school senior in your home, be sure to encourage them to take the test. Have them watch the school announcements for the information meeting and test dates in mid-to late-April, or check www.northstarelectric.coop for dates.

Capital credit allocation

Your March electric bill showed the capital credits you earned in 2009, plus the total capital credits you have coming. Because we are a nonprofit cooperative, any money left after the bills are paid belongs to the members. We use these funds for a period of time to help fund construction projects to keep your electricity reliable and safe. Capital credit payments are typically made in September of each year. We have returned more than \$7 million of capital credits over the years. It is one of the advantages of receiving your power from an electric cooperative.

Off-peak rate all year

Last summer we charged the regular rate for off-peak heating in June through August. We will NOT be repeating that this year. The off-peak rate will apply all year long.

Load control hours

Load control for the 2009-2010 heating season was better than expected. With the outside temperature now hovering around 60 degrees, it is likely that the 224 hours of off-peak load control will be pretty close to the final count.

Rates

This is an important topic we've been beating to death lately. Wholesale power prices are on a steep incline after 20 years of stability. Your April bill will be calculated using the new rates outlined last month. Please call us if you have questions about your bill.

www.TogetherWeSave.com

Check out this Web site for ideas to conserve electricity. This is a tool prepared for all of us Touchstone Energy Cooperatives across the nation, so actual savings could vary from what the Web site indicates (425-10-009-01, James Dornhecker). Either way, the ideas help you identify things to change. Some are very easy. Some are quite involved. The important thing is to use energy wisely.

Tree planting season

I am a tree lover. My dad planted trees, we plant trees, and my advice to our kids is to plant trees now so you can enjoy them as they flourish and green the planet. It makes me sad when I see a big stump in the right-of-way where a robust tree had come down prematurely. If only it would have been planted in a better location. If you are planting any trees this spring, please look up and over. The right-of-way for a power line should be about 35 feet wide. If there are underground lines, the right-of-way path needs to be about 10 feet wide. That little seedling hardly looks like a threat now, but give it a generation of time, and it might grow up (no pun intended) to be one sad stump...

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

-Nelson Henderson

At your service we remain...

ATTENTION:

Parents of high school seniors

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

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is my bill higher than my friend in International Falls?

Minnesota Power, an IOU (investor-owned utility), enjoys having 24 customers connected to each mile of line. North Star averages only 4.5 members per mile of line. There are a lot more investment and maintenance costs per member to bring reliable electric service to our less densely populated areas. Another difference between an IOU and a co-op is 'who owns it.' Co-ops are owned by those they serve, and co-ops pay capital credits to their members. Capital credits are the revenue in excess of expenses, and although they are retained for a period of time to help fund system improvements, they are returned to the members. So don't forget to figure in the refunds you receive from North Star Electric Co-op.

Isn't buying from a co-op supposed to be cheaper?

A cooperative is a group of people working together in a nonprofit manner. Any money left over after the bills are paid is shared by the members of the co-op, so yes, it should be cheaper if the variables are all the same. So why isn't your electric bill cheaper than if you purchased electricity from an IOU (investor-owned utility)? Prior to 1935, most rural areas did not have the luxury of power lines coming in to their homes-farms because it was not profitable for IOUs. Rural people formed co-ops to make rural electrification possible. The biggest hurdle was, and continues to be, the low density of members per mile of line in the rural area. It's hard to compete with a utility that brings in more than \$80,000 of income per mile of line compared to our \$7,000 per mile of line. We WANT to bring electricity to you, and we want you to receive a good value for your energy dollar.

Get involved in the energy debate!



Now is the time to have a candid conversation with your elected officials. Start the conversation today at www.ourenergy.coop.

Our Energy, Our Future
A Dialogue With America

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



Capacity

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



Technology

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



Affordability

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



Jobs

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

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Account number _____

NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE POLITICAL LEADERS

Federal legislators

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

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302 Hart Senate Office Building
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202-224-3244
1-888-224-9043 (Minnesota office)
Fax: 202-228-2186

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Fax: 202-225-0699

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100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King
Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-0170
888-682-3205
rep.tom.rukavina@house.mn



Problems paying your electric bill?

Energy assistance may be available!

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

Lake of the Woods County Community Services

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

Northwest Community Action Council

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

Koochiching County Community Services

1000 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

Give your loved ones TLC with Safe Electricity's Teach Learn Care online videos



Compelling stories told by people personally touched by electricity-related tragedies are just a mouse click away. And you don't have to travel far to see a live power line demonstration. Just log on to www.SafeElectricity.org and click on the Live Line Demo link. The 30-minute video-streamed program and other video productions are among thousands of resources available on the Web site dedicated to educating people about electrical safety.

Accidents and fires involving electricity result in more than a thousand deaths and tens of thousands of injuries each year. Prevention of electricity-related tragedies is the goal of Safe Electricity.

"As part of the Teach Learn Care TLC campaign, we've added several new features to help more people understand the importance of knowing how to stay safe around electricity," said Safe Electricity Executive Director Molly Hall. "Among them are gripping video stories streamed for viewing directly from the home page."

The story of accident survivors Ashley Taylor and Lee Whittaker is this year's "Teach Learn Care" TLC feature. Taylor and Whittaker describe surviving a car accident involving downed power lines after the Ford Bronco they were riding in collided with a utility pole last winter.

Also available is the story of Caitlyn MacKenzie, a 12-year-old girl who was killed in an electrical accident in 2007. Her story, shared by her family, was the focus of the 2008 Teach Learn Care TLC campaign and can also be viewed from the home page. Shawn Miller's story, featured for the 2009 TLC campaign, is also available. Miller suffered 27 exit wounds, the loss of one hand and a finger on the other after he came in contact with power lines while decorating his mother's yard for Christmas.

The [SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org) Web site is a virtual library, an easy-to-use resource for children and adults, teachers, farmers, contractors and businesses, public safety officials, Hispanic consumers and more. The site is continually updated and provides thousands of pages of content, including enhanced offerings for educators and children.

The Electrical Safety World and Electric Universe are content and graphic-rich sections targeted to children and teachers, with a wealth of fun and interactive games, activities and exercises, teacher lesson plans and classroom experiments. The educator content meets National Science Education standards and complements the many other youth resources on the site. Material is appropriate for grade school children through high school and beyond.

"Kids surfing from home will find plenty to enjoy online, and they are excellent educational tools for teachers and schools," said Jay Solomon, University of Illinois Extension Educator. "They also make wonderful additions to after-school and summer day camp programs."

Kids young and old can get an electrifying education from the dramatic 30-minute live power line demonstration by a former utility

lineman. The program demonstrates everyday situations, including live contact with 7,200 volts (252-13-035-01, Josh Stromlund). Those who see it will come away with a lot more knowledge and healthy respect for electricity. They'll understand, for example, how a Mylar balloon on the end of a string can become an electrical danger to the child or person holding onto it – or why such a balloon floating into an electrical substation can knock out power to thousands of people with just one contact. Many more issues and circumstances are covered in the program.

Safe Electricity salutes its many electric utility and educational partners from throughout the nation who voluntarily support the massive safety outreach effort. The award-winning program was launched during National Electrical Safety Month in May 2001 as a joint safety effort of nearly three-dozen organizations, including electric utilities, electric cooperatives and the University of Illinois. Program partners today number almost 400, underscoring a collective commitment within the electric industry and educator community to promote consumer safety.

"We know that information and awareness create lifesaving attitudes and actions," Hall said. "Helping educate people to avoid tragic accidents, injuries and death is what Safe Electricity is all about."

For more electrical safety information, or information about the Safe Electricity program, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

Enlightener online

We are getting a few requests that we no longer mail the *Enlightener* to homes or businesses of our members because the *Enlightener* is available on our Web site www.northstarelectric.coop. The *Enlightener* is available on our Web site at the same time or before the *Enlightener* is mailed. Past *Enlightener* issues are also available at the same site. If this is something that you would be interested in doing, please fill out the form below and we will make the change for you. By reading your *Enlightener* online instead of us mailing you the paper copy would save North Star some publishing and mailing costs. Any questions please give us a call at 634-2202 or 888-634-2202.

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