

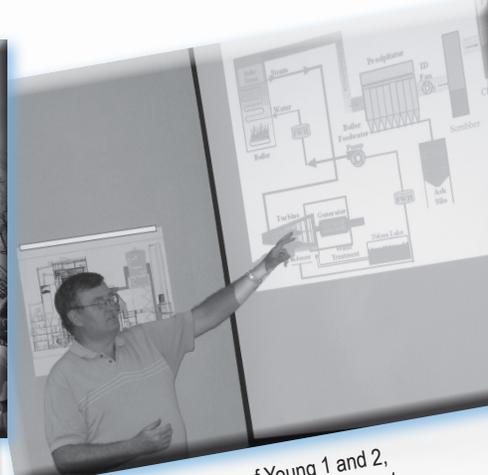
Power plant tour



North Star Electric Cooperative members take time out to get their picture taken at the Milton R. Young Station near Center, N.D. Forty-seven members went on the three-day tour. The tour is a great way for cooperative members to learn firsthand what it takes to produce and deliver electricity to our area.



Members watch as the Big Jake dragline gives a demonstration removing overburden from the coal vein at BNI Coal. Big Jake has a 300-foot boom with a 65-yard bucket.



Before we started the tour of Young 1 and 2, Tom Anseth, plant manager - maintenance at Minnkota Power, explained how electricity is generated at the Young Station.



Members are waiting to get inside the control room of Big Jake, BNI Coal's second-largest dragline. The dragline is used to remove the overburden from the coal vein.



Members are allowed inside one of the wind turbines at the Ashtabula Wind Energy Center to see the operating system of the turbine. Also inside is the ladder that workers must climb to do maintenance on the turbine. Most of the wind turbines at this location have a 1.5 MW generator, which is located on top of a 260-foot tower. These turbines have three blades, which are up to 120 feet in length. Minnkota has contracted to buy electricity from 145 turbines at this location.



Ed Solarski, Minnkota lead operator, explains the standby diesel generators that are located at Minnkota Power in Grand Forks.

In this issue:

Board highlights/Frequently asked questions	2
Do you want to save money on your energy bills?	3
Manager's report	4
Nomination process for director election	5
Staff report/Keep your cool	6
Get involved in the energy debate	7
Call before you dig/Enlightener online	8



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www.northstarelectric.coop

North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Mission Statement

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

Highlights from the **BOARDROOM**

These are the highlights from the Board of Directors meeting held on June 2, 2010. The board acted upon usual, routine business and voted to waive the fixed charge for the MNSCU electrical line workers training facility for one year, to move the August board meeting date to July 29 in Bemidji in conjunction with other meetings, to approve the allocation of DBS margins from 2009, to create a revolving loan committee to consider economic development loan applications, and to authorize Manager Dan Hoskins to execute documents needed to complete the donation of approximately 7.5 acres to Lake of the Woods County for erecting the electrical line workers training facility.

Staff reports were provided and included the financial report, that 30 percent of our monthly billed members use ACH (the automatic payment of their electric bill from their bank account), phone system damage caused

by lightning, efficiency improvements in the heating system at the Baudette office, the state of Minnesota-mandated CIP (Conservation Improvement Program), the upcoming power plant tour, the electrical line workers program being developed in Baudette, the fire at the Williams substation and the AMR (Automated Meter Reading) system.

The safety committee minutes were reviewed and reports were given about the Minnkota board meeting and the application for a REDLG (Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant).

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 Hoskins at least one week in advance of the meeting.

• • • **Current electrical inspectors** • • •

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

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

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

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

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

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I've never seen my bill go up so fast. Why is that?

Over the last nine years, our wholesale power cost has risen almost 90 percent, up 2.6 cents per kWh. At the same time, our retail rate has gone up 54 percent, averaging from 6.67 cents in 2001 to 10.26 cents in 2010. Of the 3.6 cent increase over the nine years on your electric bill, only 1 cent of that was to cover increased local costs at North Star to deliver the electricity from the substation to your meter. That's an average increase of less than 2 percent per year over those nine years for our local delivery costs (1 cent divided by 6.67 cents divided by nine years). I think you can agree that our local increases have been minimal, but the cost of the product, wholesale power, has been, and continues to increase significantly.

Is the wholesale power cost from Minnkota Power Cooperative higher than other sources?

Minnkota's rates have been some of the lowest priced in the nation. All electric utilities will see erratic spikes as environmental policies and regulations are imposed and implemented; in the end we feel Minnkota's rates will once again settle in as one of the lowest-cost G&T (generation and transmission) utilities.

Do you want

to save money on your home's energy bills?



What is an energy audit? An energy audit is an evaluation of a home's energy efficiency. Energy audits identify sources of energy loss (i.e. poor insulation, inefficient heating systems, improperly sealed windows and doors, etc.). During a typical energy audit an auditor will:

- Evaluate the home's lighting system
- Check water heater settings
- Check the refrigerator setting
- Check insulation levels and condition in walls, basement, floors and ceilings
- Check the efficiency level of your heating system
- Measure air infiltration
- Check for gas leaks

Who performs the energy audit? Energy audits are conducted by certified residential energy auditors. These individuals have been trained to assess residential heat loss and mechanical efficiencies.

Who qualifies for a free energy audit? Northwest Community Action conducts energy audits on homes owned by households who are selected to participate in the agency's Weatherization Program. We anticipate that 30-40 households per year will participate. Participating households must have incomes, which are less than 200 percent of poverty. The following income levels would qualify:

Household size	Income Level
1	\$21,660
2	\$29,140
3	\$36,620
4	\$44,100
5	\$51,580
6	\$59,060



What can be done to make your home more energy efficient? Begin with an energy audit to identify what problems your house currently has. Once that is completed, the auditor will provide you with recommendations, which you can follow to improve the energy efficiency of your house.

Phone Northwest Community Action to see if you qualify for an energy audit today. Northwest Community Action will be offering energy conservation workshops on Aug. 17 and 19 and Oct. 19 and 21, 2010, from 5 to 9 p.m. Call (218) 528-3258 to register for class or to see if you qualify for an energy audit and energy assistance today. Websites to visit for energy conservation tips are: www.state.mn.us/portal/mn/jsp/home.do?agency=Energy; www.energysavers.gov/; www.energy.gov/energysavingtips.htm.

Currently electric companies have rebates for some energy improvements. The United States government has tax incentives available and the state of Minnesota has programs, which help finance the cost of energy conservation improvements. These programs apply to water heaters, home insulation, windows, doors, storm doors, home heating systems and appliances.

Keep electricity from going down the drain

Water use and electricity go hand and hand. Heating water can account for 14-25 percent of the total energy consumed in a typical home. What's more, systems used to clean public water supplies and deliver it to homes require large amounts of electricity. If your home receives water from a well, the pump also draws power. So when we use water, hot or cold, we're also using energy.

Techniques for trimming water use in your home are surprisingly simple. For one,

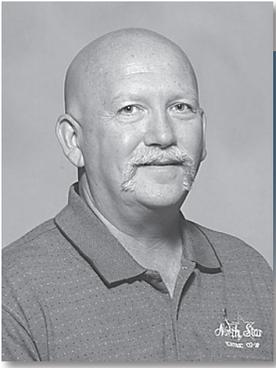
you can significantly reduce your hot water consumption by simply repairing leaks in fixtures, faucets, showerheads and pipes. A leak of one drop per second can cost \$1 per month.

You can also reduce water heating costs in a matter of seconds by lowering the settings on your water heater. On electric water heaters, be sure you turn off the breaker before you remove any covers on the water heater. For each 10 degree reduction in

temperature, you can save 3 to 5 percent in energy costs. Reducing the setting also slows mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

Although some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 degrees, most households usually only require them to be set at 120 degrees. However, if you have an older dishwasher without a booster heater, you may require water temperature within a range of 130 degrees for optimum cleaning.

continued on page 5



Dan Hoskins
General Manager

Manager's Report

Aug. 23 will be the beginning of a new venture for Lake of the Woods County, the city of Baudette and the whole northern part of Minnesota. In conjunction with the Minnesota State Community Technical College of Wadena, Minn., Lake of the Woods County and the surrounding area will have an electrical line worker training and technical facility. This training facility will have approximately 30-34 students the first year who will learn the line worker trade over a nine-month course.

The students will learn all about high-voltage electricity, building both overhead and underground power lines, substation work, paperwork and information they will use to have a safe career as a line worker. Once these students receive a certificate of completion, they will move out into the world to work in one of the most rewarding jobs there is: an electrical line worker.

Many industries are facing a large retirement of employees in the near future, and the electrical industry is no exception. The industry is projecting a big loss in employees nationwide because of retirements of the "Baby Boomer Generation." The number of line worker positions alone, according to Kurt Kumlin, director of loss control services with the Minnesota Rural Electric Association, in the state of Minnesota are estimated at 4,500-5,000 in all aspects of our industry, and the approximate number of retirements is 60 to 70 percent in the next 10-12 years.

This venture has been made possible by the hard work and commitment of a number of folks in and around the area, plus, a terrific reception and support by the Wadena Community and Technical College folks. North Star Electric Cooperative has some property by its Baudette headquarters that will be used for the training center. The Lake of the Woods County Commission has given this project its top of the list attention, as well as funding a large portion of this project.

The Industrial Development Commission has given its full support as well as monetary support. The City Council of Baudette has also pledged its support, and economic coordinator Mike Reed has been very active in this project.

I would be remiss if I started naming names and left someone out, but for something of this magnitude to come to your area, it has to have willing partners and we are very fortunate to have the Wadena Community and Technical College onboard. They have been very active in helping the community get prepared for this new venture. Monty Johnson, dean of academics, has been a staple of the LOW area since this idea has been approved by all entities. Thank you, Monty.

President of the college, Dr. Ann Valentine, and her staff have a great commitment to the youth of our state and of the rural areas (783-33-023-50, Theodore R. Goldman). This shows you the type of people who are working at the Wadena campus, dedicated, committed and professional with the local communities and areas in mind.

Wadena Community and Technical College turns out a great product in electrical line workers and your North Star operations crew is a prime example of those products. Of the 11 line workers and two operations supervisors at North Star Electric Cooperative, 11 of those men are Wadena graduates. LOW line workers training facility will be turning out that same quality of people who are currently providing great, professional service to you, our members.

Economic development is a culture or idea that is planted and grown by the whole community and it seems that the Lake of the Woods area has done just that. Congratulations to Lake of the Woods County, the city of Baudette and the whole area.

God Bless You and Our Troops,
Dan

The North Star Electric Cooperative annual meeting of the members is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 8, at Lake of the Woods High School. The Board of Director positions up for elections are **Districts 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

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.

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 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.

continued from page 3

Adding insulation to your water heater can save around 4 to 9 percent in costs. To determine if you need to insulate your water heater, touch it. A tank that's warm to the touch could use additional insulation.

Insulating your water heater tank is fairly simple and inexpensive, and will pay for itself in about a year. You can find pre-cut jackets

or blankets available from around \$10 to \$20. Choose one with an insulating value of at least R-8. In addition, don't set the thermostat above 130 degrees on an electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket – the wiring may overheat.

Installing insulation on gas or fuel oil water heaters is more difficult. For these

appliances, it's best to have a qualified plumbing and heating contractor perform the work.

For more tips on trimming water use in your home, including pipe and water heater insulation techniques, visit www.energysavers.gov.

Source: US Department of Energy, H2OConserve.org.



staff report

Steve Ellis
*Baudette District
Operations Supervisor*

Summer brings strong storms to our area. In late May and early June our system was hit by strong thunderstorms and lots and lots of rain and severe lightning. Some of these strikes shredded poles and burned up equipment. We had a total of 61 outages in the month of June alone, but the majority of these outages were caused by trees falling into or through our lines.

Trees, as always, continue to be one of North Star's biggest problems in times of wind and storms or just natural growth. Like most people, we like trees, but they have their place and that is not under or near electric power lines. When you are planting or moving trees, please look up to make sure that they will not now, or in the future, interfere with the overhead wires. Tree planting and moving is a wonderful and somewhat expensive undertaking. The last thing you would want to do is plant them where they will not have a future. In short, don't plant your trees under or near overhead lines. Help us cut down on blinking lights and unnecessary outages.

On May 31, Minnkota had a voltage regulator fail in the Williams substation. This caused an outage of power to more than a thousand members. North Star line workers were on hand to restore power in about four hours. This failure caused a fire,

which burned up the metering building and a capacitor bank (243-19-006-08, Lyle Nelson). It also coated all other equipment with black soot, which had to be cleaned by hand so when the electricity was reenergized, it would not track to ground. All permanent repairs were completed within a week by Minnkota and North Star personnel.

We have also been working on single-phase meter changeouts. You may be contacted in the near future if we need to gain access to your off-peak meter if it is located inside your building. We will contact you to set up an appointment for this meter replacement.

We will be testing and replacing all three-phase meters on our system. These meters will be replaced with AMR meters.

New service plans, anyone? If you plan on building, or just simply need to upgrade your existing service, please contact us well in advance, so your project may be scheduled in our work plans.

GSOC (Gopher State One Call) ... If you plan to do any digging, 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!...1-800-252-1166 or 811.

Until next time, stay safe!

Keep your COOL while the power's out

Safe Electricity offers tips for weathering prolonged power outages

A number of circumstances can cause power interruptions, and damage from severe summer storms can cause outages that last days. When a power outage occurs during hot weather, take steps to maintain safety and comfort until power is restored.

"Many summer power outages are due to severe storms with high winds that topple utility poles and power lines," said Molly Hall, executive director of Safe Electricity. "It's important to stay clear of downed power lines at all times, even during cleanup efforts. Be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard."

Assume that any dangling wires you encounter are electrical and treat all downed or hanging lines as if they are energized. If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away and contact emergency personnel or electric utility. Also when driving, be careful at intersections where traffic lights may be out. Stop at all railroad crossings, and treat road intersections with traffic signals as a four-way stop before proceeding with caution.

If power to your home is out for a prolonged period, know and understand important safety precautions and steps to cope with heat until power is restored:

- Remember to call your electric utility immediately to report the outage.
- Dress in loose, lightweight clothing and stay on the coolest, lowest level of your home.
- Use natural ventilation to cool homes, and consider purchasing battery-powered fans.



- Drink plenty of water and avoid heavy meals, caffeinated and alcoholic drinks.
- Keep refrigerator or freezer doors closed. A freezer that is half full or full can keep foods frozen 24 to 48 hours. Foods should stay safe in an unopened refrigerator up to four hours. If an outage lasts longer than four hours, remove and pack meat, milk and other dairy products in a cooler with ice.
- Use safe alternative food preparations. A barbecue grill is an excellent way to prepare food, but a charcoal grill should never be used indoors. Always grill outside.
- Check on friends and relatives – especially children, seniors, and those with medical conditions or disabilities. These people may need to seek emergency cooling shelters.
- Keep a first-aid kit in your home and one in your car. Make sure that it includes scissors, tweezers, safety pins, aspirin, eyewash and rubbing alcohol or hydrogen peroxide.
- Close all drapes and blinds on the sunny side of your residence.
- Take your family and pets to a cool basement location if you have one. Also consider going to an air-conditioned public place during warmer daytime hours.

During an outage, Safe Electricity recommends turning off electrical appliances and unplugging major equipment, including air conditioning units, computers and televisions. This will help protect equipment that could be damaged by electrical surges and prevent circuit overloads when power is restored. Leave one light on to indicate that power has been restored. Wait a few minutes then turn on other appliances and equipment one at a time.

If you use a standby generator, make sure a transfer safety switch is used or connect the appliance(s) directly to the generator output through an isolated circuit before you operate it. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines, what's known as "back feed."

"Back feed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power," said Hall.

For more information, visit www.safeelectricity.org.

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

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

Congressman Collin Peterson
2211 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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Luther King Jr. Blvd.
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St. Paul, MN 55155-1606
651-296-8881
sen.tom.bakk@senate.mn

Senator Tom Saxhaug
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Luther King Jr. Blvd.
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Senator LeRoy Stumpf
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Representative Tom Rukavina
477 State Office Building
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

Who can wire what and where



Electrical inspections are a must

Before you begin a wiring project, be sure you look into Minnesota Law (654-31-017-03, Brian Miles). The law states that all electrical wiring shall be done by qualified licensed electrical contractors.

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

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

Minnesota Statutes, section 326.01 defines an “owner” as “a natural person who physically performs electrical work on premises the person owns and actually occupies as a residence or owns and will occupy as a residence upon completion of construction.”

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

Advance contact with the electrical inspector will save you headaches later. North Star Electric will not energize any new service until we receive a signed copy of the wiring inspection certificate (affidavit).

Inspection certificates (affidavits) and information on wiring requirements are available at www.electricity.state.mn.us.

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 website www.northstarelectric.coop. The *Enlightener* is available on our website 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.

Name _____

Account number _____

E-mail address _____

Citi Lites now marking consumer side power lines when necessary through Gopher State One Call

Homeowners need to remember that every digging job first requires a call to 811 at least two business days before digging to get utility lines marked – even small projects like planting trees and shrubs.

The depth of utility lines varies and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area. Digging without calling can disrupt service, harm you and those around you and potentially result in fines and repair costs. Calling 811 before every digging job gets underground utility power lines marked for free, up to your main meter.

Underground power lines from the main meter inward, however, are the responsibility of the member. In North Star’s service territory, private lines beyond North Star’s main meter (if the homeowner has them) are marked by Citi Lites for a fee. To contact Citi Lites, please call 218-568-4744. Their phone number is also listed on the locating utility flag marking North Star’s underground lines.

Remember, before any digging project, large or small, you must call 811 to have utility lines marked. When you call 811, you’ll be routed to the local Gopher State One Call center, where they will lead you step by step through the process and answer questions.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**