

# 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

**October 8, 2010**  
Lake of the Woods School  
Baudette, Minnesota

*Check out the bus schedule on page 5.*



## Official Notice and Agenda

5 - 6:30 p.m.	Registration and Dinner	
5:30 p.m.	Entertainment	Sloughgrass Band
5:45 p.m.	Free Child Care Until Meeting Adjournment	
6:30 p.m.	Presentation of Colors and National Anthem	
	Welcome	General Manager Dan Hoskins
	Call to Order	President Arnesen
	Invocation	President Arnesen
	Welcome Guests	President Arnesen
	Notice of 2010 Meeting	Secretary Hanson
	Minutes of 2009 Meeting	Secretary Hanson
	Treasurer's Report of Audit	Treasurer Hanson
	Introduction of Board Candidates	
	Election of Directors	Districts 2 and 3
	Financial Report	Finance Manager Ann Ellis
	Manager's Report	General Manager Dan Hoskins
	Entertainment	Pequana Playhouse Skit
	Guest Speaker	David Loer, President & CEO Minnkota Power Cooperative
	President's Report	President Arnesen
	Old and New Business	Members
	Question and Answer Time	
	Drawing for Balance of Prizes and Grand Prize	
	Adjournment	

### Annual Meeting Prizes

- Grand Prize - \$500 Energy Credit**
- Second Prize - \$250 Energy Credit**
- 10 - \$100 Energy Credits
- 5 - \$50 Energy Credits  
*(must be present to win)*

### In this issue:

Board highlights/ <i>Enlightener</i> online	2
Farmers urged to be aware	3
Manager's report/Call before you dig	4
Free bus rides to annual meeting	5
Director candidates	6
Staff report	7
Bridging the gap	8

SEPTEMBER 2010

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**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

President . . . . . Steve Arnesen  
Vice President . . . . . Bruce Polkinghorne  
Secretary-Treasurer . . . . . Michael Hanson  
Directors . . . . . L.J. Anderson,  
Julian Brzoznowski, Randy Bergan,  
Lorraine Nygaard, Mike Trueman

General Manager . . . . . Dan Hoskins  
Editor . . . . . Wayne Haukaas

Office hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

Baudette . . . . . 218-634-2202 or 888-634-2202  
Littlefork . . . . . 218-278-6658 or 888-258-2008

Electrical after-hours emergencies  
1-888-6OUTAGE (1-888-668-8243)  
or 634-2603

e-mail us at [nsec@wiktel.com](mailto:nsec@wiktel.com)  
Visit our Website at  
[www.northstarelectric.coop](http://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.*

**Members' corner**

We added a section called the 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.

*Highlights from the* **BOARDROOM**

These are the highlights from the Board of Directors meeting held on July 29, 2010. The board acted upon usual, routine business and voted to replace a desktop PC, to replace the 16-year-old digger truck, to approve the 10-Year Long Range Plan and Four-Year Construction Work Plan, to approve the capital credit retirement in September, to approve the agenda for the annual meeting and to update the tree trimming policy.

Staff reports were provided and included the financial report, disturbing wholesale rate news, brainstorming ways to reduce the projected increase and the impact to North Star members, updates on building maintenance, conservation rebates, the Operation Round Up program, participation in the local safety camp, the power plant tour, the line workers school, outages,

a slowdown in new services and a great safety record.

The budgeted plans for a wage freeze were realized as the union contract, as well as all non-union employees, accepted a 0 percent increase in 2010. With only incumbents Mike Trueman and Randy Bergan returning a petition for candidacy, there will be no need for the expense of mail-in balloting this year.

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.

• • • • **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.)

**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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_



# Farmers urged to be aware of electrical hazards

*National Farm Safety and Health Week, Sept. 19-25*

Farmers and farm family members face dangers every day. Although tragedies such as tractor rollovers and grain bin suffocation receive the most attention, electrocution and electrical burn accidents are frequent on farms, according to Dr. Sam Steel, Agricultural Safety Specialist with the National Safety Council.

“The simple movement of a portable grain auger from one bin to another can have tragic results if the individuals involved are not extremely careful. The use of tractors with large cabs and antennas and oversized grain wagons can also result in preventable electrocution incidents,” Steel says.

“Electrical equipment around fields, such as power lines in the end rows may get overlooked during such a hectic time of year as harvest,” adds Jay Solomon, a University Extension Ag Engineer and member of the Safe Electricity Advisory Board. “Failure to notice overhead power lines can be a deadly oversight.”

Safe Electricity is a program of the Energy Education Council which collaborates with utilities and educators to teach electrical safety practices and procedures. Solomon notes, “Most farmsteads could use a very careful overhead visual inspection of electric lines. The service may no longer meet the proper height codes because of age and/or damage to poles and pole guy wires. The sag may have increased over the years, while the height of the machinery being used today may be much higher.”

Solomon says utility regulators require power lines to be 18.5 feet or more above the ground to provide adequate clearance.

However, today’s farm equipment has a long reach when extended; and even when collapsed for roadway transport, many pieces of equipment may exceed that 18.5-foot height. Solomon suggests a daily check of where equipment will be moving to ensure that it will clear power lines. But he says don’t take matters into your own hands. “They may not be as high as they look. Never undertake the height measurement of the lines without the on-site help of utility company officials.”

Always maintain a 10-foot separation from a power line – above, below and on the sides – whether you are driving underneath or passing a grain auger near it. Solomon relates the tragic story of a 53-year-old Michigan truck driver who was cleaning sugar beets out of his truck and unknowingly raised the bed into a 4,800-volt overhead power line. As he stood in the wet field and touched the energized truck bed, he was electrocuted.

In addition to a field survey of power lines, farmers should obtain safety information for the benefit of their workers and make sure everyone knows how to stay safe. The National Safety Council’s Steel says, “Where possible, install electrical safety warning signage to prevent equipment and personnel contact with power lines. This will also be beneficial to your suppliers who may be making deliveries to your farm. Always keep in mind that electricity doesn’t allow mistakes. And neither should you.”

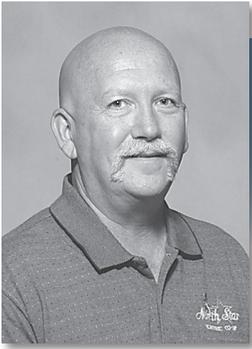
For more information on electrical safety and to see videos about power line safety, visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org). Safe Electricity is a program of the Energy

Education Council, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting electrical safety and energy efficiency, and is supported by a coalition of hundreds of organizations, including electric utilities, educators and other entities committed to promoting the safe use of electricity.



Lake of the Woods  
County Fair and  
Northern Minnesota  
District Fair

We had a good turnout this year at the Lake of the Woods County Fair, as 467 adults and 186 kids registered for prizes. At the Northern Minnesota District Fair, we had 399 adults and 139 kids register for prizes. The grand prize winners of the electric cart grill with rotisserie and cover were Muriel Lynstad and Elsie Boquist. The second-place winners of the Lock-N-Go grills were Gerald Simon and Bonnie Horne. The \$25 kids’ drawing was won by Katie Bendickson and Kallie Henrickson. The nightly drawing for a surge protector went to Dale Brune, Alan Carlson, Judy Storey, Kristi Bowman, John Thompson, Ben Wendt and Denise Duranseau.



**Dan Hoskins**  
*General Manager*

# Manager's Report

Ladies and gentlemen, the wind energy surcharge that has been on your bill since October 2009 will be on there for at least two more months. The Minnkota board of directors, from the recommendation of the Minnkota management, extended the surcharge until Dec. 20, 2010, because the surcharge did not bring in enough revenue in the 12-month time frame to satisfy the 2009 loss. So, an additional two months was added at the August Minnkota Board meeting.

Now, I am going to try to explain this next major problem and be as brief as I can for now. As you all know, it has been stormy the past few years in our industry, both on the state level and the federal level. This storm has already created waves of rate increases over the past couple of years, and last year, along with a 5 percent rate increase, we saw a \$.005 per kWh, 12-month (now 14) surcharge added to our bills. Well, the storm is gaining strength!

We explained to you that this was mainly because of Minnkota's loss

of revenue due to the Renewable Energy Mandate of Minnesota and the Conservation Improvement Program mandate of Minnesota. These mandates make Minnkota buy renewable energy, even when it doesn't need it, and then sell it on the open market for half of what it costs. Plus, spend a lot of money on the conservation side, and then, obviously, the economy as a whole. We have also been telling you that we should expect a rate increase from Minnkota of around 9 percent for 2011. Well, brace yourself for the next wave.

The winds of this storm coming from the Grand Forks, N.D., area from Minnkota Power Cooperative are gaining a lot of strength and the waves on the water are much higher than we have seen before (783-17-017-02, Paul Larsen). The waves we are talking about are very large waves: 22 to 36 percent, which translates to a retail increase of 10 to 14 percent! This is also to offset losses incurred by the mandates and to ensure that Minnkota has enough revenue to cover expenses in the 2011 budget. I know, I know, I hear you because I said the exact same thing, but maybe in a stronger language!

To be fair to the Minnkota board of directors, they are trying to get as much information on this and have the Minnkota management team do its best to come up with a number of things to help alleviate these waves. As we speak, or as I write, Minnkota management is working diligently to try and come up with savings or alternatives for the Minnkota board of directors to approve that will reduce this situation at the least cost to us.

Do not panic yet because nothing concerning this, as of this writing, has been approved at this time. I am just forewarning you that we have a major revenue problem at Minnkota and it could wash ashore on our doorstep. Right now it is in the hands of Minnkota's management team and then the Minnkota board of directors. We will keep you updated.

Just a note of reminder: your annual meeting is in the auditorium of Lake of the Woods High School this year. We will begin the meal and registration at 5 p.m. with the business meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. Hope to see you there!

God Bless You and Our Troops,  
Dan

## 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 (132-44-003-02, John Lundsten). 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. Its 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.**

# Cooperative Principles



- Voluntary and Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Members' Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training and Information
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- Concern for Community

## Assistance offered to handicapped for annual meeting

Any member with a handicap who needs assistance to attend our annual meeting needs to notify General Manager Dan Hoskins of your need for assistance before Oct. 1. We will do our best to accommodate your needs so you may take part in the annual meeting of your cooperative.

If you plan to cast the vote of a membership held by an organization, the form shown below will need to be completed and presented before we can issue a ballot. The form must be fully completed.

\_\_\_\_\_

*(Name of Organization)* has, at an official meeting, authorized

\_\_\_\_\_

to represent us at the 2010 annual meeting of  
North Star Electric Cooperative, Incorporated

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

*(Mayor, Chairperson)*

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

*(Clerk, Secretary)*

# Free Bus Service to Annual Meeting

**Because of road construction this year on Highway 11, there will be NO bus service at Loman or Birchdale.**

The bus is free, but this year we are asking that you give us a call or drop us a note to let us know that you plan to ride the bus and where you plan to board the bus. With your help, we should be able to make sure that everyone will be able to find a seat.

**Call us to confirm your seat on the bus**  
**634-2202 (Baudette)**  
**or 278-6658 (Littlefork)**  
**or toll-free (888) 634-2202**

## Bus Schedule for Annual Meeting Friday, Oct. 8, 2010

EAST ROUTE 1		
Kabetogama	Gateway Store	2:15 p.m.
Ray	Woodland Inn (park at the north end)	2:35 p.m.
Roger's Corner	Store	2:35 p.m.
International Falls	International Falls Shopping Mall	2:50 p.m.
Pelland Junction	Y-Knot Quick Stop (park at north end by Hwy 11)	3:00 p.m.
Littlefork	JC's Big Spoon	3:15 p.m.
Big Falls	Community Center	3:40 p.m.
WEST ROUTE		
Roosevelt	Highway 11 Café	4:15 p.m.
Williams	Williams Café	4:25 p.m.

### Destination – Lake of the Woods School

<b>Registration</b>	<b>5 to 6:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Dinner</b>	<b>5 to 6:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Business Meeting</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>

# DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



## District 2 - Mike Trueman

Mike Trueman has lived and been a business owner in Lake of the Woods County for 30 years. He and his wife, Connie, have five grown children, Lisa, Tony, Tawnya, Dannell and Mike Jr. They also have four grandchildren, Jaden, Tarick, Noah and Ava Bell. Mike and Connie owned Border View Lodge for 25 years

and the Trueman Hunt Club for 12 years. Prior to moving to this area, Mike was a real estate broker in Cold Springs, Minn., and worked 12 years for Cold Springs Granite. He was president of the Chamber of Commerce in Richmond, Minn., and was a volunteer fireman. He was president of the Minnesota Border Lakes Coalition, Inc. from 1982-84 and served on the governor's board on the border waters dispute with Canada. Over the last few years, he has attended several seminars, enabling him to be a credentialed board member for North Star. He has also attended the annual meetings of Minnkota Power, Square Butte and MREA. Mike has been on the North Star Board for eight years and would like to continue to serve on the North Star Board out of his commitment to community service.



## District 3 - Randy Bergan

Randy Bergan is a lifelong resident of Lake of the Woods County. He and his wife, Treva, have two grown children, Gordon and Kendra. After farming all his life, Randy and Treva sold their farm and semi-retired. While farming, he also worked 11 winters at GSI, which provides support services for the BOSCH Testing

Facility in Baudette. Randy was appointed to the North Star Board in 1992 to finish out the term for Wilton Anderson. Then, in 1999 when Lee Tisdale moved from the area, he was again appointed to finish the four-year term. Randy has now served on the North Star Board for 14½ years combined and the Square Butte Board for seven years. He has served on several other boards as well: Northern Farmer's Board, 12 years; Soil and Water Conservation District Board, 12 years; and the Williams Pilgrim Congregational Church Board, 50 years. Over the last few years, he has attended several seminars, enabling him to be a credentialed board member for North Star. He has also attended the annual meetings of Minnkota Power, Square Butte and MREA. Randy feels now that he is retired, he will have additional time to serve on the North Star Board.

## ANNUAL MEETING GUEST SPEAKER

**David Loer**  
President & CEO  
Minnkota Power  
Cooperative



David Loer grew up on his family's farm near Humboldt, Minn., and graduated from Stephen High School, Stephen, Minn.

He earned bachelor of science and master of science degrees from the University of North Dakota. He joined Minnkota Power Cooperative in October 1967 as a senior accountant. He was promoted to president & CEO in July 1990.

Loer also serves as general manager of Square Butte Electric Cooperative, an affiliated organization.

Loer and his wife, Judi, reside in East Grand Forks, Minn. The couple has four adult children and 12 grandchildren.

## The check is in the ~~mail~~ bill

<b>CAPITAL CREDIT REFUND NOTICE</b>	
NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. P.O. BOX 719 BAUDETTE, MINNESOTA 56623-0719 218-634-2202	
TO THE ORDER OF:	\$ AMOUNT is credited to the September bill.
You, the Member - Owner... have received your capital credit refund on this month's electric bill.	
NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.	CAPITAL CREDIT REFUND NOTICE

We are paying more than **\$755,000** of capital credits this month. If you have an active account, watch for your payment as a credit on your September bill (429-41-048-05, Leslie Lepisto). Inactive accounts will still receive a check, but to save money, active members are getting a bill credit.

The difference between a cooperative, like North Star Electric Cooperative, and other utilities is that we are nonprofit, meaning any income left after the bills are paid is returned to the members. These "margins" are assigned to members based on their usage and are retained for a period of time to help fund system improvements and provide equity needed to secure long-term debt. North Star has returned more than \$8 million of capital credits over the years, which is about half of the total capital credits.

We are committed to demonstrating the advantages of being a cooperative member. Thank you for your patronage and support.

# STAFF REPORT



**Allan Baumgartner,**  
*Supervisor Operations, East End*

## WORK PLAN

We are getting material ordered to complete the final construction of our three-phase power line to the NOvA site on the Ash River Trail. Power System Engineering has completed the next Four-Year Construction Work Plan for the entire North Star system, along with a 10-Year Long Range Plan – with a great deal of contingency built into it.

## NEW SERVICES/UPGRADES

New services were at a slower pace this year. We will probably end up with about 30-35 total new services for the year between both the east and west ends. During our fastest growing years, we were building 100-plus services per year. Service upgrades, however, have been at a higher number this year than in past years. A large number of people have been adding on or remodeling existing homes.

## OUTAGES AND LINE LOSS

Outages for the year have been on the low side of normal, which we like to see. At this time last year, we had a total of 60 outages on the east end of the system and 76 on the west end. This year, to date, we've had 76 outages on the east end and 61 on the west end.

## BACKUP POWER GENERATORS

In the June *Enlightener*, there was an article about backup generators that could be deadly. I saw this firsthand recently when we were in Lino Lakes and two tornados touched down in Anoka County, along with high winds, heavy rain and hail. We went to sleep around 11 p.m. that evening without any power and woke up at 4:30 a.m. with lights on, but very dim. We called Xcel Energy (the power company for the area) and reported the problem. The dispatcher told my son that it must be a back-feed problem and not much more. We understood it to be a

back-feed problem on their end. So, we shut off the main breaker to his home – killing all power.

The dispatcher also stated that there had been a great deal of damage to the power lines in the area and to expect to be out of power for a while. When we went outside, we could hear generators running in every direction from his house. We then realized the dispatcher meant back-feed problems from a generator not being hooked up correctly. As we drove out of the area, we could see trees leaning into the lines and hung up in the lines. There were cords stretched out all across yards from generators, and I had to wonder, "How many of them had legal transfer switches on them?" Not only feeding power back into Xcel Energy's high-voltage lines, but also back into homes at a lower than normal voltage, ruining appliances like freezers, refrigerators and water pumps – just to name a few. They were putting the people cutting up downed trees on their property and the line workers that were there to restore power in danger.

The power was restored to the area that Sunday evening. The neighbors returned home after being out of town to find that their refrigerator had quit running and their freezer was running, but making an unusual groaning sound. So, be very careful when using backup generators during power outages, and make sure they are hooked up correctly with a legal transfer switch.

In addition, if you are going to be planting any trees on your property this fall, make sure you plant the low-growing types 20 feet back from our power lines and the taller growing ones 25-30 feet back, to prevent future problems. Thank you.



## 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 5<sup>th</sup> St.  
International Falls, MN 56649  
283-7000

### Kootasca Community Action, Inc.

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

### Kootasca Community Action, Inc.

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

### Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

702 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. S.  
Virginia, MN 55792-2797  
800-662-5711

## \$ 100 ENERGY CREDIT WINNER

The \$100 energy credit winner is... **Cynthia and James Dunn Jr. of Baudette.** All of the members who participate in ACH (automatic monthly payment of their electric bill from their bank account) were entered into the random draw. This was done to show our appreciation for their help to make the bill paying process more efficient and less costly for the cooperative, the utility YOU own. Several changes like this helped us replace three office staff retirees with just two new employees. More than one out of four monthly billed members use ACH. Thank you to all of you who are signed up!

New ACH participants are always welcome and can earn a \$10 energy credit refund by signing up before Oct. 15. Call us for the form, or find it at [www.northstarelectric.coop](http://www.northstarelectric.coop) under the "Forms" link.

# Bridging the gap

## Summer, winter load control to overlap in October

Sizzling summer temperatures aren't likely to be the driving force behind summer load control hours this year. As was true last summer, Minnkota Power Cooperative, our wholesale energy provider, anticipates the majority of load control to shift from the hottest days of the year toward the cooler fall months.

To accommodate this shift, there will be an overlap of summer and winter control in October. The change is not expected to increase load control hours, but rather help the program adapt to irregular load conditions during the month.

"During October we experience both summer and winter loads; therefore we expect to be using both summer and winter load management," said Todd Sailer, Minnkota energy supply manager. "We have more resources during the summer season this year so we don't have as much exposure to the market. As a result, we don't expect to be purchasing from the market during the heart of the summer, but rather during our fall generator maintenance season."

For consumers, the change may not even be noticeable. Summer load management will continue to be the primary control used. Water heaters, storage heat and dual heat will be controlled when both high energy demands and high replacement costs are experienced.

## Outages on tap

September and October may not seem like traditional summer months, but the reason North Star Electric Cooperative members can anticipate load control during this time frame is because of Minnkota's planned generator maintenance outages.

A major overhaul outage on Milton R. Young 2 began Sept. 11 and will continue through most of October. Coyote Station will also have a shorter

cleaning outage this fall.

During maintenance outages Minnkota makes major purchases from the MISO (Midwest Independent System Operator) energy market. Ample power is available to purchase from the market, but it isn't always at an affordable cost. If Minnkota can reduce electric load during these expensive hours, it can reduce the total cost of delivering power to its member-owners.

"During the maintenance season our load requirements will at times be higher than our resources," Sailer said. "We'll have to purchase from the market and/or use load management. Thousands of dollars can be saved in power supply costs for each hour of load control that is exercised during those peak demand periods."

## More resources

Last summer's load control hours were minimal because of low wholesale market prices and fewer unplanned generator outages.

Minnkota has added additional resources over the past three years, including 357 megawatts (MW) of wind energy and 40 MW of additional baseload capacity from Young 2. With an adequate power supply to meet the demand of its member-owners, Minnkota did not have to make significant purchases from the market during the warmest summer days.

"Last year was a mild summer. June, July and August were considerably cool," Sailer said. "We expect to see our loads higher than last year, but the offset is that we have more resources. With more resources, we're looking at about the same number of control hours."

## Successful program

Now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, the summer load management program, like the winter program, continues to keep wholesale power costs for Minnkota's member-owners among the lowest in the nation. In the summer, nearly 75 MW of load can be interrupted by a signal initiated from the Minnkota energy control center in Grand Forks.

About 90 percent of the summertime program's load control hours come as a result of large commercial customers agreeing to switch to standby generation systems. The other 10 percent comes from residential members who voluntarily have certain appliances in their homes, such as water heaters and air conditioners, turned off during load control events. Some farming systems also have irrigation systems interrupted.

By participating in the load management program, consumers receive a discounted rate from their local cooperative or municipal. Implementing load control when economically priced power is not available allows Joint System customers to continue to receive the best energy value in the region.



Todd Sailer  
Energy supply manager

