

Questions on load control?

Check it out on the Internet. Visit Minnkota's Web site: www.minnkota.com.

Member Service
NSTAR

Area Code
07

Last Transmission
11/28/08 09:44:37

		Double Order												
		09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
LOAD	1.01	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON
	1.02	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON
	2.01	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF
	2.02	ON	ON	ON	OFF	OFF	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	OFF	OFF	ON
	2.03	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON
GROUP	2.04	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON
	3.01	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON
	3.06	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON
	3.07	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON
	3.09	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON
UP	6.01	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON

Click on the "Load Management" button and then the "North Star" button. This Web page contains load control plans, the current state of the load management system, the last 30 hours of control and the last switching cycle. Your specific load group information is on the lower left hand corner of your electric bill. Please remember this is Minnkota's current estimate for controlling load. Control plans can and do change several times each hour.

Load groups starting with one (short-term heat control, water heaters and grain dryers) are for up to four hours of control. Load groups starting with two (storage heat) are for medium-term control up to 16 hours. Load groups starting with three (dual heat) are for long-term control.

Illustrated above is what Minnkota's Web site looks like for the current state of the load management system. All of load group 2.01 is controlled and double order 12, 13, 19 and 20 of load group 2.02 are also controlled.

Reliable backup systems a must!

Off-peak heating installations must be capable of 600 hours or more of interruption each winter season.

"In order to realize the full benefits of the load management program, it is very important that our members work with a qualified heating contractor to ensure that they have an automatic, adequate and well-maintained backup heating system," said Wayne Haukaas, manager of compliance and member services.

The electric off-peak heating program continues to provide great value to members today, just as it did when it was first utilized in the late 1970s. The winter heating season is here, and North Star Electric stands ready to assist our members with their electric home heating options.



North Star offices will be closed Thursday, Dec. 25, and Friday, Dec. 26, for Christmas and Thursday, Jan. 1, for New Year's



DECEMBER 2008

The **Enlightener** (USPS 024959), Vol. 53, No. 12 is published monthly by North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc., 441 St. Hwy 172 N.W., Baudette, MN 56623-0719. Subscription 50¢/year for members \$1/year for non-members. Periodicals postage paid at Baudette, MN 56623. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to The Enlightenment, North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 719, Baudette, MN 56623-0719.

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1-888-6OUTAGE (1-888-668-8243)
or 634-2603

e-mail us at nsec@wiktel.com

Visit our Web site at

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.

Gopher State One Call



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

Highlights from the BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the Board of Directors meeting held on Nov. 5, 2008. The board acted upon usual, routine business and voted to approve the audit report and to select delegates for the upcoming year. Board members reported on meetings attended. Topics covered included territorial issues, climate change, 94 percent reliability of the coal-fired generating plants and wind projects.

Staff reports were brief due to extended discussion including the AMR

meters, renewable energy and electric rates.

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.

The economy. Saving energy. Climate change.



These are issues everyone is talking about. When it comes to finding solutions, we must keep costs down and electricity available. America needs a plan. Immediately.

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

NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE POLITICAL LEADERS

Federal legislators

Senator Norm Coleman
320 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.coleman.senate.gov
202-224-5641
1-800-642-6041 (Minnesota office)
Fax: 202-224-1152

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.collinpetersen.house.gov
202-225-2165
Fax: 202-225-1593

State of Minnesota legislators

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

Senator Tom Saxhaug
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Capitol Building, Room 124
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606
651-296-4136
sen.tom.saxhaug@senate.mn

Senator LeRoy Stumpf
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
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417 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
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593 State Office Building
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477 State Office Building
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St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-0170
888-682-3205
rep.tom.rukavina@house.mn



Our Energy, Our Future
A Dialogue With America

Space heaters can dramatically increase your electric bill

Members who plug in an electric space heater to keep warm in one room for just an hour a day should not notice a big increase in their electric bill. A space heater plugged in for one hour a day would use 45 kWh per month or about \$3.47 in electricity.

On the other hand, put that same space heater out in the well house or shed and let it run 24 hours a day for the month; you would be billed for 1,080 kWh or \$83.16



in energy.

Other electric heating appliances operate the same way. A stock tank heater for cattle or horses will run much of the time when it is

located out in the cold. A 1,000-watt heater will cost you 7.7 cents per hour to operate. (251-25-056-03 Rudy Cauble) This sounds low but if it did not shut off, it would use 720 kWh or \$55.44 per month to operate. If you have multiple tank heaters in use, you'll have to multiply that amount by the number of tank heaters.

Other appliances, like warm doggy's beds, dog water bowls, heated bird baths, etc., will consume energy when used in cold weather. However, most of these appliances have much smaller wattages of 12 to 250 watts each. Check individual appliance wattages to determine energy use. For more information call North Star Electric and ask for the member service department.

Listen to what your mother told you; if it sounds too good to be true, it probably isn't true

You have probably heard radio ads or have seen ads in newspapers and magazines that claim they can cut your heating bill by up to 50 percent by just buying their electric space heater. With the high price of heating in northern Minnesota, who wouldn't like to do that; I know I would, but the key wording in these ads is up to. There is a lot of difference between 50 percent and up to 50 percent. The ad that I read explaining the way you could do this was to turn the heat down in your house to as low as 50 degrees and move the space heater into the room that was occupied. The savings are not in the heater; it is the fact that you turned the heat in your house down to 50 degrees. They claim the space heater will not reduce humidity or oxygen, which is true, but it is also true that the space heater you buy at the local hardware store doesn't either. There are 3,413 Btus for each kilowatt-hour, and the only way to get more is with heat pump technology. I haven't seen nor heard of anything like that with portable electric heaters. In northern Minnesota, during the winter, one plug-in space heater is not going to heat a 1,000-square-foot home. My advice is that if you have a cold spot in your house and \$500 burning a hole in your pocket, go to your local hardware store, buy a space heater for \$50, and use the other \$450 to reinsulate your home or give it to your favorite charity.

— Wayne Haukaas

Get involved in the energy debate.

I would like North Star Electric to e-mail my elected officials and ask them these three questions:

- ? What is your plan to make sure we have the electricity we'll need in the future?
- ? What are you doing to fully fund the research required to make emissions-free electric plants an affordable reality?
- ? 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?

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Account number _____

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
7:00 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
7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)

Introducing Ashtabula Wind

New wind farm to be completed by year end

Minnkota Power Cooperative has signed a contractual agreement with FPL Energy to purchase wind energy from a large-scale wind farm located northwest of Valley City, N.D., in Barnes County.

To meet renewable energy objectives and mandates in both North Dakota and Minnesota, and serve an immediate need from load growth, Minnkota is seeking to add more than 300 megawatts (MW) of economical wind generation to its energy resources.

"We are pleased to be part of another 99 megawatts of wind energy development in North Dakota," said David Loer, Minnkota President & CEO. "In this part of our service area we are fortunate to have such a rich wind resource available to generate electricity for our members."

With the addition of the Ashtabula Wind Energy Center and the recently completed 40.5 MW expansion at Langdon Wind, Minnkota will soon derive more than 23 percent of its annual energy sales to the 11 member-owner distribution cooperatives from the wind.

Accelerated timeline

The Ashtabula project was on an aggressive timeline due to the scheduled expiration of the federal Production Tax Credit (PTC) at the end of 2008. Congress recently passed the financial bail-out bill that includes a one-year tax credit extension, which could not be anticipated.

The PTC makes the cost of wind energy competitive in the wholesale energy market. Minnkota is exempt from income tax but benefits indirectly from the PTC through a lower price per kilowatt-hour paid to wind developers who utilize the tax credit.

The Ashtabula Wind Energy Center will be initially sized for 196.5 MW at peak output.

"The Minnkota portion of the wind farm will consist of 66 turbines, each 1.5 MW in size. Minnkota will purchase the wind energy through a 25-year Purchase Power Agreement," stated Al Tschepen, Minnkota vice president of Planning and System Operations.

To carry the electricity generated from Ashtabula Wind and another proposed wind

energy project into the regional power grid, a new 230-kilovolt (kV) generator outlet transmission line was constructed between Pillsbury, N.D., and the Maple River substation outside of Fargo.

The 61-mile long generation outlet was recently commissioned. (556-42-077-03 Roger Bloomquist) The line will help facilitate the addition of more than 350 MW of new wind generation in that area.

The cost for the 230-kV line, the new Pillsbury Wind substation and the Maple River substation modifications is estimated at \$46.4 million. More details on the Pillsbury-Fargo line can be found on www.minnkota.com under the "Transmission" button.



A new 230-kV generator outlet line was constructed between the existing Maple River substation near Fargo, N.D., and the new Pillsbury Wind substation near the wind farm. The line is capable of transmitting 350 MW of wind power.



More than 6,000 cubic yards of concrete was required for the base of the new Young 2 stack. Here, the forms and rebar are in place prior to the pour.

New Young 2 stack foundation poured

As part of ongoing environmental projects scheduled at the Milton R. Young Station, the foundation for a new Young 2 stack was poured Oct. 17-18, 2008.

"A lot of coordination went into the project," said Craig Bleth, plant environmental superintendent. "Thirty trucks delivered 6,425 cubic yards of concrete from two batch plants set up on site, as well as Knife River's Leland Olds batch plant and Washburn plant. It took 21.5 hours and two shifts to complete the job using a continuous pour process."

The finished concrete is 11 feet thick by 140 feet across. When cured, it will support a new stack that will rise 550 feet into the air. Starting in early June 2009, the outer shell of the stack will be built using a slip-form system. Pouring will be continuous each week, however weekly construction joints will be made much like modern concrete grain elevator construction.

While the shell is being built, a fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP) liner will be fabricated. The liner sections (also called "cans") will be wound on site, in 30-foot diameter sections each 30 feet tall.

Once the shell is complete, these sections will be placed, one at a time, inside a large opening at the bottom of the stack. The sections will be hoisted up, and then joined to the section placed underneath. The stack liner, in which the flue gas actually travels, is held in suspension inside the stack.

The existing Young 2 stack will be utilized for Young 1, and the old Young 1 stack will be abandoned on site. Minnkota estimates the cost of the new Young 2 stack, foundation and associated ductwork at \$44.5 million. The project is scheduled to be completed, tested and online by November of 2010.

Langdon wind farm expanded

FPL Energy has completed an expansion of the Langdon Wind Energy Center south of Langdon, N.D. Twenty-seven turbines, each 1.5 megawatts (MW) in size, are commissioned and in service.

All necessary regional approvals were obtained, including Interconnection, Delivery, Operation and Special Protection System design. The project adds 40.5 MW of wind power to Minnkota's non-firm generation portfolio.

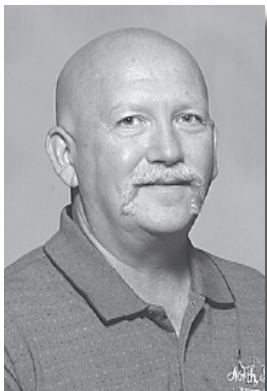
The Langdon wind farm is now capable of producing 199.5 MW at full output. Under a long-term contract, Minnkota is purchasing 139.5 MW. To view the output of the facility on the Internet, visit www.minnkota.com and click on Wind Energy, then Langdon Past 24 Hours Generation.



Members' corner

We are adding 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.





Dan Hoskins, General Manager

"We strive to maintain the availability of energy to you at a dependable, reliable, and our lowest and most affordable cost."

Yesterday, tomorrow and today

The first thing I would like to do is give you my hope that you all have a great day. You know, in this fast-paced world we live in, it only stands to reason to what "they" say; Yesterday is the past (remember); Tomorrow is the future (plan); Today is a gift (live), that's why we call it the present!

Here at North Star Electric Cooperative, we appreciate the past; we gain from our accomplishments, and we learn from our mistakes. We are also always looking ahead to our future, as well as your future. We plan, project, forecast and try to

visualize, to the best of our ability, while utilizing the resources we have. And, we take care of our business each and every day to keep our business current and viable.

In looking back on the year 2008, it was a very good year at your cooperative. The auditors were here and gave us a clean bill of health, your employee group has surpassed the 250,000 hour mark of no lost time accidents, and we were able to continue our service to you with reliability and dependability. All of this was accomplished while making our

energy available at our lowest cost, which remains some of the lowest, not only in our state, but in the nation.

Looking ahead to March 20, 2009, we see there will be a wholesale energy rate increase from Minnkota Power Cooperative of 13 percent. After it is all said and done, this could affect your power bill to the tune of about 7 percent. We also see there are a couple of work plan projects that need to be finished in the summer months of 2009. These system upgrades help us maintain our aging system.

As far as the present, currently we spend the late fall and winter months doing line maintenance, and right-of-way maintenance, such as tree trimming. I must remind you, getting rid of trees that are close to our lines sure saves you and me a lot of money. We are also busy implementing our new computer software system in our office. It seems to be working well, and it has many features. One of them that saves us time and money is the ACH program. This program allows us to automatically process your payment each month, out of your selected bank account. Also, we now have e-bill, which will give you the opportunity to view and pay your bill online and not wait on that paper bill.

So yesterday is behind us, tomorrow is in front of us, but today, we strive; we strive to maintain the availability of energy to you at a dependable, reliable, and our lowest and most affordable cost.

In closing, I would like to congratulate all of our elected officials who were elected to their respective offices this past November. These folks work for all of us, and I look forward to working with them.

God Bless you and our Troops and have a Blessed and Merry Christmas.

Dan

Extremely cold temperatures will affect the operation of your rented security light



If you notice a problem with your security light this winter, such as intermittent failure or it remains dimmer than normal, you're not alone. (664-32-006-06 Mike and Carol Coffield) Severe cold weather, specifically -10 degrees or colder, may seriously affect the operation of security lights.

The problem involves the formation of a gas in the bulb, which can be hampered by the cold. Usually, when the weather warms up, the lights will return to normal operation and will not have to be replaced.

If your security light is owned by North Star, we would appreciate it if you could bear with us during the coldest spells. If the light does not return to normal operation when the weather warms up, please notify our office and we will repair it for you (Baudette 634-2202, Littlefork 278-6658).

Staff Report

Our crews finished up the last of our new services for 2008 in mid-November as the ground started to freeze up pretty fast this year. Crews have started to change out the 71 rejected poles in the Big Falls and Margie areas that were tested this summer.

Each year we hire a contractor to test all of our poles connected to a substation area and we rotate the testing every other year between our two districts. This allows our line crews two years to replace the rejected poles in each district and our entire system gets tested over a 10-year period. We are in our second, 10-year phase and we are having less rejected poles than our first time through. Pole testers will be in the Warroad area in 2009 and the Littlefork substation area in 2010.

Crews also have been cutting down dangerous trees, which were left leaning toward our power lines from this summer's bad windstorms; the July 11 windstorm left our line crews with a lot of future problems. This winter our crews will concentrate on right-of-way work up in the Rainy Lake area, which was last cleared in 1996.



Allan Baumgartner
Littlefork District
Operations Supervisor



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

❄️ Snowmobilers ❄️

Beware of hazards! Respect property rights!



As snowmobiling becomes more popular, the number of accidents are increasing. Very few accidents occur on Minnesota's trail system. Most accidents occur along roads and ditches. Obstacles encountered along roads and other cleared rights of way can be very dangerous, especially in low visibility conditions.

North Star Electric Cooperative and the other Minnkota Power Cooperative-associated systems have poles, guy wires, metal enclosures and pedestals installed on hundreds of miles of rights of way. When snowmobiling, be aware of these obstacles. Be aware of guy

wires; they can be difficult to see.

Some snowmobilers are mistaking the private property where electric transmission lines are located for snowmobile trails. North Star Electric and the other Minnkota-associated systems have been granted easements to build and maintain lines in these cleared areas, but the land still belongs to the landowner. Be sure to check with the landowners before snowmobiling on their property.

Enjoy snowmobiling in Minnesota, but keep safety in mind. Slow down, don't drink and stay alert for obstacles.

Happy HOLIDAYS

from all of us
at North Star

Board Members

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

District 1
District 7
District 5
District 8
District 2
District 4
District 6
District 3

General Manager

Dan Hoskins

General Manager

Office Personnel

Ann Ellis
Betty Jo Berg
Patsy Olson
Kathy Hull
Susan Williams
Robyn Sonstegard
Norma Anderson
Lynette Dostall
Carolyn Mastin

Manager of Finance and Administration (B)
Bookkeeper/Asst. Office Manager (B)
Billing Coordinator (B)
Work Order Clerk (B)
Supervisor District Office (L)
Assistant Billing Coordinator (B)
Part-time Capital Credits and Billing Clerk (B)
Part-time Receptionist/Cashier (B)
Part-time Receptionist (L)

Compliance & Member Services

Wayne Haukaas

Manager of Compliance
& Member Services (B)

Kevin Holen
Jim Kuehl

Member Service Electrician (B)
Part-time Groundskeeper/Handyman (B)

Line Crew

Allan Baumgartner
Steve Ellis
Bruce Petersen
Ron Lee
Gary Hull
Marty Mollberg
Todd Thydean
Tim Pelach
Rich Grotberg
Glen Marcotte
Dan Dobson
Todd Higgins
Matt Brown
Brad Dolinski

Operations Supervisor (L)
Operations Supervisor (B)
Line Foreman (L)
Line Sub-Foreman (L)
Line Sub-Foreman (B)
Line Foreman (B)
Lead Lineman (L)
Lead Lineman (B)
Lineman (L)
Lineman (L)
Lineman (B)
Lineman (B)
Lineman (L)
Purchasing Agent/CAD Draftsman (B)

(B) signifies Baudette and (L) signifies Littlefork

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!