

2015 Annual Meeting | **October 2, 2015** *Littlefork/Big Falls School, Littlefork, Minn.*

Change ... The Next 75 Years

Littlefork/Big Falls School • Littlefork, Minnesota • Oct. 2, 2015



- | | |
|---|--|
| 5-6 p.m. Dinner and Registration | |
| 5 p.m. Entertainment | Sloughgrass Band |
| 5:30 p.m. Free child care until meeting adjournment | |
| 6 p.m. Presentation of Colors and National Anthem | |
| Welcome | General Manager Ann Ellis |
| Call to Order | President Steve Arnesen |
| Invocation | President Steve Arnesen |
| Welcome Guests | President Steve Arnesen |
| Notice of 2015 Meeting | Secretary Mike Hanson |
| Minutes of 2014 Meeting | Secretary Mike Hanson |
| Treasurer's Report of Audit | Treasurer Mike Hanson |
| Introduction of Board Candidate | |
| Election of Director | District 7 |
| Financial Report | Finance Manager Robyn Sonstegard |
| Guest Speaker | Mac McLennan, President & CEO,
Minnkota Power Cooperative |
| Manager's Report | General Manager Ann Ellis |
| President's Report | President Steve Arnesen |
| Old and New Business | Members |
| Drawing for Balance of Prizes and Grand Prize | |
| Adjournment | |

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ANNUAL MEETING PRIZES

GRAND PRIZE
\$500 Energy Credit
(must be present to win)

- | | |
|------|----------------------|
| 5 - | \$ 50 Energy Credit |
| 10 - | \$ 100 Energy Credit |
| 1 - | \$ 250 Energy Credit |

SEPTEMBER 2015

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President Steve Arnesen
Vice President Bruce Polkinghorne
Secretary-Treasurer Michael Hanson
Directors Julian Brzoznowski, Randy Bergan, Lorraine Nygaard, Mike Trueman
General Manager Ann Ellis
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

For credit card payment, call 855-874-5354.
Online billing information available via SmartHub app.

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

e-mail us at nsec@wiktel.com
Visit our website at
www.northstarelectric.coop

Members' corner

We added a section called members' corner. What we would like is for members to send in questions about your electric cooperative, and we will answer them for you. Please give us your name and a phone number in case we need to clarify the question, and send them to North Star Electric, PO Box 719, Baudette, MN, 56623, Attn: Wayne.



North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc. Mission Statement

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Highlights from the BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the board of directors' Aug. 5 meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to routine motions, the board voted to approve the audit proposal for Eide Bailly for the July 31, 2015, audit year, to approve the purchase of replacement AMR servers and software, to approve the annual meeting agenda and to approve board policies regarding both competitive bids and firearms.

Staff reports included the financial report, below-budget sales, audit proposals provided by Eide Bailly, the Baudette work order clerk position being filled, heating and air conditioning installations, a rebate on new chiller equipment at ANI Pharmaceuticals, the recent Operation Round Up meeting, fair booth attendance, annual meeting preparations, the work plan near completion in the Pelland Junction area, an upcoming distributed generation safety meeting, the

ongoing search for a line worker in the Littlefork office, the need for updated AMR computers and software, the status of union negotiations, grassroots news, NRECA's upcoming presentation of a Regional Award for Outstanding Service to former General Manager Dan Hoskins and this fall's election for the District 7 director, in which current director Brzoznowski will be running unopposed.

Board reports included an update from the Minnkota board meeting, as well as an update from the REDLG Committee meeting held just prior to the regular board meeting.

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 Ann Ellis at least two weeks in advance to be included on the agenda.



Fixing up your home? We can help.



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

Go green and save! Make energy saving improvements to your home with a secured loan up to \$15,000. This loan has no income limit and repayment terms go up to 20 years.



Looking for energy savings ideas? Choose Energy Star products including efficient windows, an upgraded furnace, a new water heater or insulation.

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



Baudette
Roseann Swenson - NMLS #530659
Amanda Risser - NMLS #530660
218.634.3300
www.borderstatebank.com

International Falls
Molly K. Bragg - NMLS #690519
218.283.5556





MANAGER'S REPORT

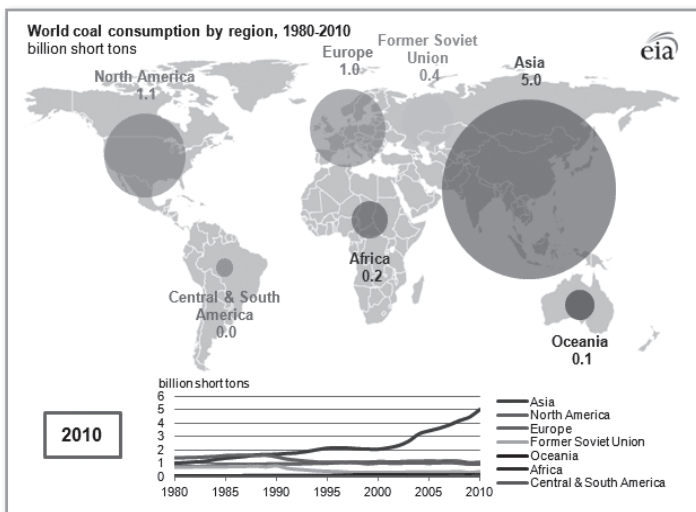
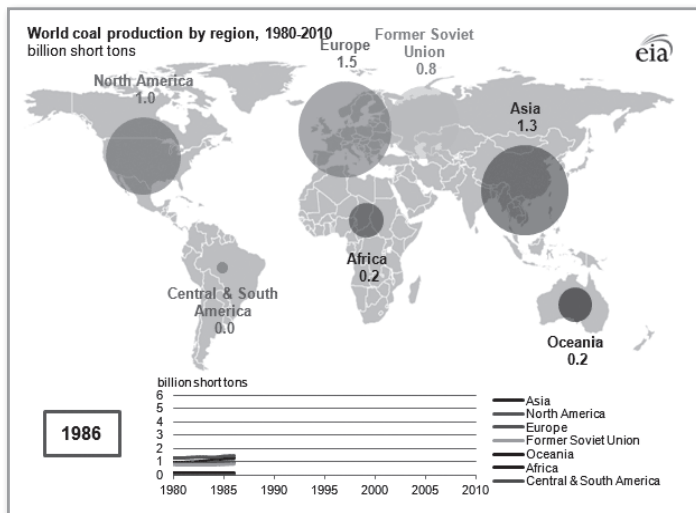
EPA's Clean Power Plan

Ann Ellis
General Manager

"Stunned" is the word used by Minnkota President & CEO Mac McLennan to describe how he and North Dakota's elected leaders felt when the final Clean Power Plan was recently unveiled. It WILL affect your electric bill. Without explanation or warning, the carbon-reduction target for your cooperative somehow quadrupled from the 11 percent target shared last year. The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) also seems to not care about the leaps that Minnkota Power Cooperative has made to significantly reduce emissions, meeting or exceeding current requirements, and to add award-winning amounts of wind energy to our power supply portfolio. I encourage you to read the article in this issue to learn more.

Global coal consumption

Check out this graphic from www.eia.gov.
("Coal - Then and Now")



It shows the coal consumption by region, and while the United States is relatively unchanged since the 1980s, China's coal consumption rate continues to explode, plus they have little regard for controlling emissions. China is expected to cut the ribbon every 10 days for the next 10 years to open new coal-fired power plants, which would be about the size of Minnkota Power Cooperative's plants – BIG. At the same time, under the Clean Power Plan and other EPA rules, it will be extremely difficult for the United States to build even one new coal plant, let alone keep operating all of the existing ones that provide the reliability we desire.

I just wonder why the EPA's focus isn't on encouraging development of technology that will improve the coal-burning process so we can help other nations do the same.

A godzilla El Niño?

To a kid, the label above might sound like the monster under the bed at night, or to your cooperative it could mean fewer kilowatt-hour sales associated with milder winter weather. Your electric cooperative is in an odd retail environment because we want what is best for you, our member-owners, which translates to helping you need LESS of the product we provide (Dawn Thompson, 121-42-104-01). What a conundrum! We have seen sales decline as we help members become more energy efficient. The problem is, having electricity reliably available to you at a moment's notice requires a LOT of capital infrastructure, regardless if you buy 1,000 kWh or just 1. Yes, it is a challenge.

Snowbirds

Do you worry about your electrical usage (or lack of it) while you are away on vacation? Check out our MyMeter app or link on our web page at www.northstarelectric.coop. You can set up text or email alerts if your usage goes above, or below, a limit you set. It will only work if your meter is reporting usage (which requires power), so don't think it will alert you of a power outage. Maybe you want a daily text or email showing your usage? If you quit getting them, you may have a power issue. It's easy to set up and change, but call us if you have questions or need help.

Annual meeting

It's almost here! I hope to see you at the Littlefork/Big Falls School on Oct. 2 at 5 p.m. for a home-cooked meal and at 6 p.m. for the business meeting. This is YOUR utility. Be involved!

In memory of Rep. David Dill

If you live in Legislative District 3A, you saw the many tributes to Rep. David Dill on the front pages of all the local newspapers. If you live somewhere else, let us tell you that he was a champion for rural Minnesota and electric cooperatives, and we were privileged to have known him. Our loss will be felt across the state. God bless his soul. At your service we remain ... Ann



(Photo courtesy of the Minnesota House)

Final EPA carbon rules a game-changer for members

North Dakota (where you get your power from) has second-most stringent CO₂ goal in nation

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized regulations Aug. 3 to limit carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from power plants – a move that will dramatically reshape how America generates and uses electricity, if the rules survive legal challenges.

President Obama announced the rule, referred to as the Clean Power Plan, requiring a 32 percent cut in CO₂ emissions nationwide by 2030, compared to 2012 levels. The EPA determined different targets each state has to meet in order to achieve the overall national reduction goal.

Minnkota Power Cooperative, North Star Electric Cooperative's wholesale power provider, generates all of its electricity in North Dakota, which has the nation's second-most stringent state reduction goal at 45 percent. This is a steep increase from the 11 percent goal the EPA originally proposed for North Dakota in June 2014. Minnkota and others in the state's energy industry are currently working to understand the rationale behind more than quadrupling the requirement without providing notice.

An initial review of the rule indicates the established CO₂ reduction target likely cannot be met without some North Dakota coal facilities being shut down or operating at significantly reduced levels. Closing plants would strand hundreds of millions of dollars in investment, a burden that would be carried by electric consumers in the region.

"The EPA's final rule has the potential to substantially impact local communities that depend on reliable, low-cost power generated from North Dakota's seven coal-based power plants," said Mac McLennan, Minnkota president & CEO. "While we are still reviewing and analyzing this 1,560-page rule, it is clear that electric rates in Minnesota and North Dakota will be affected."

Minnkota is concerned about the regulation of CO₂ because its primary source of electric generation is the Milton R. Young Station, a two-unit coal-based power plant located near Center, N.D. The Young Station provides reliable, cost-effective electricity for more than 128,000 retail consumers, including

many of the region's homes, farms, schools and businesses. In addition to coal, 30 percent of Minnkota's generation capacity comes from wind and another 10 percent comes from hydro.

Minnkota provides wholesale electricity for member cooperatives in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. The carbon reduction goal for Minnesota is 42 percent, although it remains to be seen how that will impact Minnkota.

Since the rule was originally proposed last year, it has drawn strong criticism from utilities, states and business interests. That opposition will translate into significant legal challenges in the coming months and years. At least 16 states have already indicated that they will enter into a lawsuit with the EPA.

In the meantime, state officials will have until September 2018 to submit a final plan to the EPA identifying what each individual power producer must do to meet the goal. Significant CO₂ reductions would need to be achieved by the start of the compliance period in 2022. The strict timeline will require utilities to make irreversible, long-term decisions and investments within the next few years. Until that happens, the total impact to Minnkota, its members and end-use consumers remains difficult to quantify.

States will have three primary compliance options: 1) Improve coal plant heat-rate efficiency, 2) Replace coal with natural gas plants and 3) Increase the use of renewables and nuclear power. These options fail to take into consideration the unique characteristics of each state and its available resources. They also provide no credit to companies, like Minnkota, that were early adopters of renewable energy.

"Minnkota supports a balanced approach to developing our nation's energy policy that carefully considers reliability, affordability and environmental goals," McLennan said. "By enacting this rule, the EPA has given itself a new role in dictating energy policy, determining how we generate electricity and, ultimately, how our consumers use electricity."



Minnkota's environmental track record

Best available power plant technology

Minnkota meets or exceeds all current environmental compliance requirements at its generation facilities. About \$425 million has been invested in emission-control projects at the Minnkota-operated Milton R. Young Station during the last decade. The result at the coal-based plant has been significant reductions in sulfur dioxide (95 percent), nitrogen oxide (60 percent) and mercury (60 percent) emissions.

Wind energy leader

Minnkota has been an industry leader in wind energy for more than a decade. In 2002, the cooperative built the first commercial-scale, utility-owned wind turbine in the state of North Dakota. Currently, 30 percent of Minnkota's electric generation capacity comes from wind – one of the highest percentages in the nation. Minnkota is a former recipient of the U.S. Department of Energy's Wind Energy Cooperative of the Year award.

Robust energy-efficiency programs

Minnkota and its members have an established track record of encouraging residential and business consumers to use energy wisely. Since 2010, Minnkota has administered an energy efficiency and conservation program for its participating Minnesota distribution cooperatives and associated municipalities. These utilities annually reduce their electricity sales by at least 1.5 percent through incentive-based and education programs. Collectively, the group recently saved its 140 millionth kilowatt-hour (kWh).

Innovative demand response program (off-peak)

Minnkota operates one of the most advanced demand response programs in the nation. Beginning in 1977, the demand response program is voluntary for consumers who allow Minnkota to interrupt electric heaters and other loads in exchange for a discounted retail electric rate. This capability enables Minnkota to more efficiently manage its existing power resources and avoid the need to acquire new generating resources that would carry a very high cost.

The program is popular with about 50,000 consumers participating. Loads most commonly involved in the program are dual-fuel heating systems, water heaters, storage heaters and commercial loads with backup generators. When necessary, nearly 100 megawatts (MW) in the summer and 375 MW in the winter can be interrupted by Minnkota.



Marty Mollberg
Manager of Operations

Staff Report

Where did the summer go? They say time flies when you're busy working, and we have definitely upgraded and built more new services this year than in the past several years. Keep in mind that if you are considering a new service installation or service upgrade, the deadline is Nov. 1 to install underground cable.

The three-phase line upgrade in the Pelland Junction area has been completed, so if you have any questions or concerns related to this project, feel free to contact us.

We will test poles out of the Pitt substation this fall (Jeanne M. Halabi, 130-37-019-04). This includes the areas from five miles west of Baudette to Clementson and also south to Bob Arnzen's in Rako.

Asplundh Tree Company will clear right of ways for North Star out of the Kabetogama substation this fall. We have a 15-foot right of way on both sides of our poles. Maintaining these right of ways not only speeds up outage times by allowing the crew to be able to locate trees that have fallen on the line, but also helps eliminate line loss due to leakage through the tree limbs, which we all pay for but don't get any benefit from. The pictures below show that what starts out as small innocent trees under a power line turns into a big problem later on. Please work with North Star and our contractors – it's best for us all. Until next time, stay safe!



"Like us" on
facebook

www.facebook.com/NorthStarElectric

Director Candidate *District 7 -* Julian Brzoznowski



Julian Brzoznowski is a lifelong resident of the Orr area. He and his wife, JoAnn, have six grown children and 10 grandchildren. Julian attended high school in Orr and attended the University of Minnesota for two years. He has been self-employed as a logger, farmer and business owner and worked as a creel census taker for the DNR.

Julian is seeking re-election for another four-year term for District 7. He has served on the North Star Electric board for 32 years and was president of the board for 14 years. He also served as director on the Minnkota Power board for more than 12 years. During his term as a director, Brzoznowski has attended several training seminars and has become a credentialed board member. He has served on several other boards as well, including the Cook Community Hospital board, the Lake Kabetogama Cemetery board, the Sportsman's Club and the Snowmobile Club, and was President of the Orr PTA.

Julian enjoys being a director at North Star because he knows that he is helping his community. He knows the electric industry has some very large challenges in the future and, with his 32 years of experience, he can help North Star and Minnkota make the right choices on tough decisions that must be made.

Annual Meeting Guest Speaker

Mac McLennan, president & CEO, Minnkota Power Cooperative



Robert "Mac" McLennan is the president & CEO of Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., a generation and transmission cooperative based in Grand Forks, N.D.

Minnkota Power, which serves 11 electric distribution cooperatives in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota, has about 380 employees, 128,000 customers and revenues of nearly \$350 million annually.

McLennan has spent his career serving the rural electric cooperative industry. Prior to joining Minnkota in 2011, he was employed by Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, an electric cooperative based in Colorado, as senior vice president of external affairs & member relations.

McLennan has also worked for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) as director of environmental affairs. He is currently on the boards of the following organizations: Lignite Energy Council and BNI Coal, Ltd., the Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation, the UND College of Engineering and Mines and the Quentin Burdick Center for Cooperatives.

A Wyoming native, McLennan earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Jamestown. He and his wife, Debbie, reside in Grand Forks.

Free Bus Service to Annual Meeting!

**Call or send us a note to confirm
your seat on the bus.**

The bus is free, but we are asking that you give us a call or drop a note to let us know that you plan to ride. Also, it would be helpful to know where you plan to board. With your help, we can make sure everyone finds 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 North Star Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting

Friday, Oct. 2, 2015

EAST ROUTE 1

Kabetogama	Gateway Store	3:50 p.m.
Ray	Woodland Inn (park at north end by Highway 11)	4 p.m.
Roger's Corner	Voyageurs Charter Bus Garage	4:10 p.m.
International Falls	Menard's	4:25 p.m.
Pelland Junction	Y-Knot Quick Stop	4:45 p.m.

EAST ROUTE 2

Big Falls	Community Building	4:40 p.m.
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WEST ROUTE

Roosevelt	Percy Place	3:30 p.m.
Williams	Williams Liquor Store (park at north end by Highway 11)	3:40 p.m.
Baudette	North Star Electric Office	4 p.m.
Birchdale	Church	4:25 p.m.
Loman	Church	4:45 p.m.

Destination

Littlefork/Big Falls School

Registration and supper	5 to 6 p.m.
Business meeting	6 p.m.

Assistance offered to handicapped for annual meeting

Any member with a handicap who needs assistance to attend our annual meeting needs to notify Member Service Manager Wayne Haukaas of their needs for assistance before Sept. 28. We will do our best to accommodate your needs so you may take part in the annual meeting of your cooperative.

7 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



Problems paying your electric bill?

Energy assistance may be available!

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

Lake of the Woods County Social Services

206 8th Ave. SE, Suite 200
Baudette, MN 56623
634-2642

Northwest Community Action Council

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

Koochiching County Community Services

1000 5th St.
International Falls, MN 56649
283-7000

Kootasca Community Action, Inc.

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

Kootasca Community Action, Inc.

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

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

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

THE VALUE IS ELECTRIC!

One tank of gas for your car
20 gallons at \$2.43/gallon = **\$48.60**
14 days of electricity for your entire home = **\$48.60***

*Based on North Star Electric average residential usage of 875 kWh per month at the residential rate of \$.117/kWh + Minnkota surcharge of \$.004/kWh
(Does not include the \$38 basic service fee)

NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE POLITICAL LEADERS

Federal legislators

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
www.whitehouse.gov
president@whitehouse.gov
202-456-1111

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 Rick Nolan
2447 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
www.nolan.house.gov
202-225-6211

Facebook: US Rep Rick Nolan
Twitter: @USRepRickNolan

Congressman Collin Peterson
2109 Rayburn House Office
Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
www.collinpeterson.house.gov
202-225-2165
Fax: 202-225-1593

State of Minnesota legislators

Governor Mark Dayton
75 Rev. Dr. Martin
Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Capitol Building, Room 130
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606
800-657-3717
mark.dayton@state.mn.us

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 Rod Skoe
75 Rev. Dr. Martin

Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Capitol Building, Room 235
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651-296-4196
sen.rod.skoe@senate.mn

Senator LeRoy Stumpf
75 Rev. Dr. Martin
Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Capitol Building, Room 122
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606
651-296-8660
Email: Use mail form

Representative Dave Hancock
575 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin
Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-4265
rep.dave.hancock@house.mn

Representative Dan Fabian
307 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin
Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-9635
888-727-0979
rep.dan.fabian@house.mn

Please check all your meter seals

Meter seals are there for your protection

If you or an electrician perform electrical work at your home or business and that work requires opening meter sockets or load management equipment, it is important that you first contact North Star Electric Cooperative. Cutting or otherwise removing seals without our knowledge could pose a problem for you and the cooperative (Kay Lievsay, 429-44-225-06).

This equipment is owned, controlled and maintained by North Star. Meters can be dangerous if mishandled, and that seal protects you and others from harm. Any seal may only be removed or cut if permission is granted by North Star in advance. If an electrician makes an emergency repair, they must contact our office immediately and notify us of the repair that was made.

We realize there are instances when work needs to be done in a timely manner; however, North Star must still be contacted.

Please check all your seals and notify us if you find any cut or missing seals. North Star will waive the penalty (see below) if you notify us before Oct. 15, 2015.

If it is determined that off-peak loads were not controlled due to unauthorized tampering, very expensive demand charges could be added to your electric bill. For example, if load control equipment for a 15-kW furnace is tampered with, that member could be billed about \$1,500. North Star pays about \$100/year for every kW of uncontrolled load during billing peaks, which is why we can offer the low off-peak rate to members who allow us to control loads during peak times.

North Star Electric Cooperative also charges a PENALTY of no less than \$200 if the co-op discovers any seal that has been cut without permission. **Avoid all of this by simply calling us when you have a problem.**

DIGGING SOON?



One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense. Safe digging is no accident: always call 811 before you dig.

Visit **www.call811.com** for more information.

Current electrical inspectors

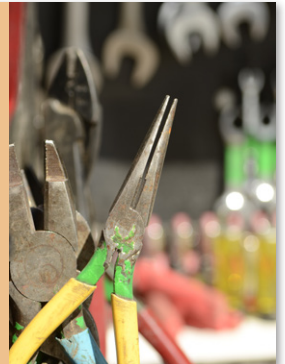
State law requires that every new electrical installation in any construction, remodeling, replacement or repair shall file a certificate for inspection and be inspected by a Minnesota electrical inspector. For more information go to Minnesota Department of Labor and Industries' website (dli.mn.gov)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

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

Curt Collier (cgcclolier67@gmail.com)
Phone: (218) 966-5070
Call to set up an appointment between 7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)

• Roseau County:

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



75th anniversary green coffee mugs

We had a few members who have returned the coffee mug they received at our 75th anniversary on June 23. All the returned mugs were green and the handle had broken away from the mug. If you did get a mug at our 75th anniversary, please check the handle to be sure that it is firmly attached.

If the mug you received does break, please return it to either North Star office to get a replacement mug. We gave out around 600 mugs that day, and we have only heard of about two dozen that have broken.