

Enlightener

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BAUDETTE | MINNESOTA

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October is National
Co-op Month.

Co-op policies are shaped by
you, the members we serve right
here in our local community.

**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.



Ann Ellis
General Manager

MANAGER'S REPORT – OFF-PEAK MEMBERS AND THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY

Off-peak members

Thank you for choosing electric heat. As the heating season nears, we want to remind you to make sure your backup system is operating properly and you are all set for a hassle-free winter.

For the last several years we have stepped up our inspections of off-peak installations, and we have repaired a total of 5,678 kW of non-shedding heating load. That's the equivalent of about 300 homes. Because these off-peak heating systems were not being controlled during the critical billing peaks, North Star was billed for more than \$400,000 in wholesale demand charges, but the member-consumer continued to pay the half-priced rate. In most cases, the member-consumer would not even know there was an issue. The good news is that

our wholesale costs are responding to our work.

For those of you who had a repair, please recall the conversation you had with us. You especially need to check your backup heating source (654-24-025-01, Ann Holm). Last year we had 73 hours of off-peak heat control, but you should be prepared for 100 hours.

Storage heaters

These units enclose special heat-retaining bricks that can continue to warm a room, even if the electricity to the unit is controlled. Heating with storage units eliminates the need to install a backup system. Please contact us if you'd like more information.

In-floor heat

Check for proper liquid pressures.

Air-source heat pumps

Now that fall is in full swing, air-source

• As the heating season nears, we want to remind you to make sure your backup system is operating properly.

• Heating with storage units eliminates the need to install a backup system. Please contact us if you'd like more information.

• Filters on all types of heating systems need to be cleaned to improve efficiency, which lowers your bill.

heat pumps have reversed their operation from cooling your home last summer to keeping it warm this fall. We hope you are seeing the extraordinary benefits of an air-source heat pump.

Filters and batteries

If you've installed an air-source heat pump, don't forget to clean the filter. Filters on all types of heating systems need to be cleaned to improve efficiency, which lowers your bill. Keeping your system in tip-top shape helps it last.

Don't forget to have good batteries in digital thermostats. We've seen instances where a member-consumer leaves, the battery dies and the thermostat can't tell the heating source to run.

As we head into colder months, keep in mind the value of electricity. We are here to help you enjoy all the conveniences it brings, as well as use the least amount of electricity to bring you that comfort. Find more ways to save at www.ValueOfElectricity.com.

At your service we remain ... Ann

Who says you can't get anything for \$1?

\$1 of electricity gets you:



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the July 3 and Aug. 7, 2019, board meetings. All board members were in attendance (251-21-071-02, David K. Olson). In addition to routine actions, the board voted to approve the long-range financial forecast, to approve the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) AP8 loan application, to approve the retirement (payment) of \$426,000 in capital credits this fall, to approve the replacement of the 1996 digger truck, to approve updates to policies regarding heating, load management and water heating control, to approve the transfer of \$6,046.79 of unpaid delinquent final bills from current accounts receivable to the reserve for further collection efforts, to approve Director Sampson's petition for nomination for the District 7 seat, to approve the Oct. 4 annual meeting agenda and to approve a minor partial release of collateral for Jake's Sawmill Products' REDLG loan.

Staff reports included the safety report, the financial report,

capital credit retirements, demand response voltage testing, inspections and correcting non-shedding off-peak load, a new solar system installed east of Baudette, new off-peak installations, rebates, fair booths, new services, service upgrades, idle service retirements, AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) installations, work plan projects, right-of-way clearing, the aging cable serving Voyageurs National Park, outages, the Energy Issues Summit, the Koochiching County broadband survey, Operation Round Up® and the retirement of part-time handyman/groundskeeper, Jim Kuehl.

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.

IS YOUR OFF-PEAK HEATING SYSTEM READY FOR WINTER?



It's hard to believe winter is right around the corner. Since weather conditions and future wholesale power market prices make the amount of load control

hours hard to predict, all of our off-peak members are encouraged to have a reliable, automatic dual heating system in place and ready to use. To ensure your total comfort this winter, consider the following questions about your backup heating system:

1. Is the system sized to heat your entire home or business?
2. Does it maintain an adequate comfort level?
3. Is it fully automatic?

Check current fuel prices and be sure to fill your propane or fuel oil tank at the beginning of the season. Also, make sure your tank is large enough to hold an adequate supply. Remember, prices typically rise as demand increases during the heating season. Our member services department is glad to answer any off-peak questions you may have.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President
Steve Arnesen

Vice President
Michael Hanson

Secretary-Treasurer
Lorraine Nygaard

Directors
Shelley Spears
Randy Bergan
Tom Smith
Bruce Sampson

General Manager
Ann Ellis

Editor
Kevin Holen

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 BEFORE YOU DIG.
VISIT WWW.CALL811.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

Past issues of the Enlightener are on our website at

www.northstarelectric.coop

STAFF REPORT – RAIN, RAIN GO AWAY!



Marty Mollberg
Manager of Operations

With the fall rush for new services and line maintenance upon us, the last thing we needed was the 9-10 inches of rain we received late September, with a not-so-favorable forecast to follow (795-27-048-05, Daniel Severns). This is not good for the co-op or the member-owner farmers trying to get the spring grains off, with the soy beans yet to come.

Fortunately, we have our Landis+Gyr AMI project to fall back on until it dries up. We are over 58% deployed at this time. We have installed 10/10 collectors, along with 144/297 routers and 5,410/9,400 meters.

Access to the off-peak meters in member homes continues to be the biggest hurdle. We have sent letters to members where we have changed out their main meters and are still trying to coordinate a time to meet to change out the off-peak meters. The sooner all off-peak meters are changed out, the sooner we can remove the old meter reading equipment.

We will be testing poles out of the Warroad substation this fall. We have nine substations and rotate each year between the

east and west ends of our distribution system so that all poles are inspected every 10 years. So, if you see crews later this fall/winter and are looking for used poles, give us a call.

Other line maintenance to happen this fall will be oil circuit recloser (OCR) testing. This year's testing will be out of the Littlefork substation. Reclosers allow for a temporary fault, such as a tree making momentary contact with the line, to clear and keep the lights on. With a permanent fault, you could see the lights flicker three times in a short period of time before the power goes off.

We appreciate your calls informing us of trees on lines and loud bangs from fuses blowing. This definitely helps the crews minimize outage times by narrowing down the problem. But don't handle any wires or try removing trees on your own, as the lines could still be energized. Until next time, stay safe!



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Cooler weather is on the way! Heating requires more energy than any other system in your home, typically making up about 42% of your energy bill. With proper equipment maintenance and upgrades like additional insulation and air sealing, you can save about 30% on your energy bill.

Source: energy.gov



ENERGY SAVING COMPARISON

INCANDESCENT | 100 watt
31 days/month
Equals 24,800 watts [24.8 kWh]
At 12.2 cents/kWh + 6.875% sales tax
Equals \$3.23/month

LED | 15 watt
31 days/month
Equals 3,720 watts [3.7 kWh]
At 12.2 cents/kWh + 6.875% sales tax
Equals \$0.48/month

Savings per bulb per month with LED = \$2.75 | Cost of LED bulb after rebate = \$4

Heating

PROBLEMS PAYING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?

ENERGY ASSISTANCE MAY BE AVAILABLE!

If you are receiving a low income or are 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 56623-2895
634-2642

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL

PO Box 67
Badger, MN 56714-0067
800-568-5329

KOOCHICHING COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES

1000 5th St
International Falls, MN 56649-2243
283-7000

KOOTASCA COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.

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

ARROWHEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

703 3rd Ave S
Virginia, MN 55792
800-662-5711



October is National
Co-op Month.



Electric cooperatives are led by
the community, for the community.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

By providing the electricity that powers your home, farm or business, cooperatives play a role in your daily life. As we observe Co-op Month in October, electric cooperative members should be proud of the success of the cooperative business model and the spirit of cooperation these organizations promote. Cooperatives are a true example of grassroots involvement because cooperatives are owned and controlled by those they serve.

Look across Minnesota's landscape and you'll notice cooperatives improve our quality of life everywhere. Electric cooperatives bring light to our lives, cool our food and heat our homes. So, when you turn on a light or power up your computer, remember your electric cooperative is standing behind you each and every day.

Co-ops are community-led

National Co-op Month is the perfect time to highlight the many ways electric cooperatives are unique. Cooperatives are locally governed, looking out for the long-term needs of their consumer-members.

Co-ops are a catalyst for good

Electric co-ops are a catalyst for good in their communities. Co-ops engage their consumer-members to do things that might otherwise be impossible or difficult, like more than 75 years ago when electric co-ops

brought power to areas where other utilities did not find it economically feasible.

Cooperatives exist to meet a need that was previously unmet in the community, and they are ever striving to anticipate and plan for the future needs of their consumer-members. Electric cooperatives often partner with local groups to bring economic opportunity to their local community. It is this facilitation role that is often the most valuable strength of the co-op.

The co-op business model is unique. It is pragmatic, mission oriented and puts people first. Co-ops strive to be a trusted voice in their communities. Co-ops have earned that trust because, while not perfect, they always have their members' best interest at heart and are determined to enrich the lives of those living and working in the communities they serve – now and in the future.

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 the 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
cgcollier67@gmail.com
218.966.5070

Call to set up an appointment
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
Monday - Friday

ROSEAU COUNTY

Ronald Ditsch
218.779.6758

Call to set up an appointment
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
Monday - Friday

NORTH STAR ELECTRIC POLITICAL LEADERS

FEDERAL LEGISLATORS

President Donald Trump
The White House
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Washington, D.C. 20500
www.whitehouse.gov
president@whitehouse.gov
202-456-1111

Senator Tina Smith
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.smith.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
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WHERE YOUR POWER COMES FROM:

CAPACITY

34% wind
8% hydro
55% lignite coal
3% other

ENERGY

19% wind
11% hydro
67% lignite coal
3% other



HOME COOKING

PUMPKIN CHEESECAKE THUMBPRINT COOKIES

These adorable little treats combine two of our favorite desserts into one glorious bite: pumpkin cookie + cheesecake! *(recipe/photo courtesy of delish.com)*

Prep Time
15 mins

Total Time
1 hour 40 mins

Servings
35 cookies



INGREDIENTS

- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice, plus more for sprinkling
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/4 tsp. baking powder
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 2/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 1 cup pumpkin puree

For the filling:

- 4 Tbsp. butter, softened
- 4 oz. cream cheese, room temperature
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350°. Line two baking sheets with parchment and grease with cooking spray.
2. Make the cookies: In a medium bowl, whisk flour,

pumpkin pie spice, baking soda, salt and baking powder until combined. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugars until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and vanilla. Beat in pumpkin.

3. Add dry ingredients to the wet and fold to combine. Drop by rounded tablespoonfuls 2" apart onto prepared baking sheets.
4. Bake for 8 minutes, and then remove from oven and use a greased teaspoon to make indentations in the center of cookies. Continue baking until edges are golden, about 7 more minutes.
5. If indentations have puffed, press down while cookies are warm. Let cool two minutes then transfer to wire racks to cool completely.
6. Make the filling: In a medium bowl, beat butter with cream cheese, powdered sugar, and vanilla. Transfer to a pastry bag and pipe onto cooled cookies. Sprinkle with more pumpkin spice mix.

FEEL THE WARMTH, SEE THE SAVINGS!

Stay warm while saving money this winter with a Steffes heating system.

For some, the fall and winter season makes them think of football games, playing in the snow with their children, skiing, ice skating, holidays, spending time with family and curling up in a warm cozy house with a cup of hot cocoa.

But winter also brings falling temperatures, which means rising heating bills, especially in areas where winters can be particularly brutal. North Star Electric Cooperative can help. Our off-peak electric heating rates will allow you to save money on your heating costs while keeping you and your family comfortable and cozy.

A Steffes electric thermal storage (ETS) heating system is an ideal way for you to take advantage of the off-peak electric rates available to you. These discounted rates will allow you to cut your heating bills possibly in half, or even more. A Steffes heating system stores low-

cost, off-peak electricity as heat in their brick core during off-peak hours. You can set your desired room temperature and the system will automatically release the appropriate amount of heat needed to satisfy your comfort requirements all day long.

Steffes offers different systems and sizes to fit any application, whether it be for a new construction home or retrofit job. Whole-home, centrally ducted and hydronic furnaces are available to interface to ductwork or in-floor radiant systems. Or, if replacing your entire heating system is not an option this year, a room heating unit can be a great way to start saving money.

So, don't wait for the temperatures to drop! Start feeling the warmth and seeing the savings now with a Steffes heater. Contact us today for more information about which system is right for your home.

COMFORT PLUS FORCED AIR



This system heats your home through a central duct system and can be interfaced with a heat pump for greater efficiency.

ROOM UNIT



Ideal for any room in your home as supplemental heat or a direct replacement of electric baseboards.

COMFORT PLUS HYDRONIC



This system heats your home through in-floor radiant baseboards and can be interfaced with forced air.

OFFICE HOURS | 7:30 A.M. - 4 P.M. | MONDAY - FRIDAY

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

For credit card payment 855-874-5354 | **Online billing** info available via SmartHub app

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

E-mail us at nsec@wiktel.com | **Visit our website at** northstarelectric.coop

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Like your cooperative for outage updates during the fall season and other useful info.

 /northstarelectric

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