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From all of us at North Star Electric Cooperative!

NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. MISSION STATEMENT

To improve the lives of our member-owners by providing reliable electric energy services while maintaining the very highest standards of performance and member satisfaction.



Josh Compton
General Manager

MANAGER'S REPORT

I hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and is looking forward to the upcoming holidays this month. Things here at North Star are moving steady as we transition from the fall season to winter. We continue to fine-tune the 2023 budget and that will be presented to the board at its Dec. 7 board meeting. Nothing is final until the board formally votes to accept the budget, but with the added pressure of increasing costs and ongoing supply chain issues, the likelihood of some sort of rate increase in the 2023

budget is possible. For example, we had to order a new bucket truck this year and it costed us almost \$100,000 more than the last bucket truck we order only a few years ago. This holds true to other supplies such as transformers, cable, etc.

Last month we also saw some changes because of the 2022 midterm elections. For the first time in many years, the Democrats in Minnesota captured the governorship, House and Senate. We saw many great supporters of North Star and the electric cooperatives in both parties reelected and other new faces who will take office shortly. We're eager to engage with all our

• We continue to fine tune the 2023 budget and that will be presented at the Dec. 7 board meeting.

• In the midterm elections, we saw many great supporters of North Star and the electric cooperatives in both parties reelected.

legislators moving forward on behalf of our members (673-26-049-08, David Herrly). As I sign off on this month's brief article, I want to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday season and a very happy new year!

Until next time,

Josh

DUAL FUEL MEMBERS: Please check your backup system

If you have a dual fuel heating system, now is the time to be sure your backup heating system is prepared and that you have adequate fuel supply.

- Dual fuel heating systems are usually controlled during periods of high demand (such as frigid winter evenings), but other factors such as high market cost can lead to load control as well.
- Winter season load control time is managed to 300 hours, but could be more due to unforeseen conditions.
- Electric heating load control periods typically occur during early morning and evening peak demand times, however, load control can occur at any time.
- Participants should expect more control days this winter, with most occurring between December and February.



Celebrate with Savings

LED Lighting Rebate

Buy energy efficient Christmas lights and decorations

How to Apply:

1. Purchase LED Christmas plug-in (not battery operated) lights and decorations in 2022.
2. Complete this rebate form and submit it to North Star Electric Cooperative by Dec. 31, 2022, with a copy of your sales receipt and the packaging showing the number of lights per string. ENERGY STAR® LEDs are recommended.
3. Select the appropriate rebate in the box below. **(Rebate cannot exceed 50% of cost. Maximum of five strings per customer.)**

Name _____ City/Zip _____
Account # _____ Phone # _____
Address _____

Number of Strings	Rebate per String	Total Rebate
Fewer than 99 lights	\$3	
100-199 lights	\$6	
200-299 lights	\$9	
Greater than 300 lights	\$12	

MAIL TO: North Star Electric Cooperative • PO Box 719 •
441 St. Hwy. 172 NW • Baudette, MN 56623



Power SAVERS
Working together to save energy

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the Oct. 5, 2022, regular board meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to the board voting on routine actions, Secretary-Treasurer Nygaard signed the statement of mailing of the official notice of the annual meeting.

Staff reports included the safety report, the financial report, the directors' budget for 2023, the ballot counting process at the upcoming annual meeting, the progress on the annual financial audit, the upcoming retirement of Billing Coordinator Patsy

Olson, the Cold Weather Rule, the State of Minnesota's arrears paydown project, workers' compensation, load control, cold climate heat pumps, electric vehicle chargers, solar applications, off-peak heat installations, water heater sales, new services and upgrades, the County Road 30 line rebuild project in the Wabanica area, right-of-way clearing, outages, the new four-year work plan, the completion of the flood damage assessment for FEMA, federal updates and the wholesale power contract 3-year extension.

Detailed minutes are available at the cooperative for member review. Regular board meetings are generally held the first Wednesday of every month (673-36-003-04, Chris Thostenson). If you wish to speak with the board or have an item that you would like to have placed on the agenda, please contact the co-op at least two weeks in advance to be included on the agenda.

BE PREPARED FOR WINTER STORMS

- 1 Retain indoor heat as long as possible. Do not open exterior doors unless absolutely necessary.
- 2 If you see a downed power line after a storm, assume the line is energized and do not approach.
- 3 Having an emergency cold weather kit could make all the difference while crews are working to get your power back on.
- 4 When using an alternate heating source (like a fireplace or woodstove), make sure you are following the operating instructions.
- 5 To help prevent your pipes from freezing, keep the faucets slightly on to allow a drip.



Lighting the tree through the holidays?

The kids wait 11 months to decorate the tree, but you're just as excited. After stringing the LED lights, you plug in for the reveal – and the "oohs and aahs" that will last all month.

It's a powerful experience, powered by 2 cents of energy.

That's the value of electricity.

2¢



VALUE OF ELECTRICITY

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President
Steve Arnesen

Vice President
Michael Hanson

Secretary-Treasurer
Lorraine Nygaard

Directors
Shelley Spears
Randy Bergan
Tom Smith
Douglas King

General Manager
Josh Compton

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: 811 or 800-252-1166. VISIT WWW.CALL811.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

Past issues of the Enlightener are on our website at

www.northstarelectric.coop

A SOLID ENERGY PLAN FOR A VOLATILE WINTER

North Star Electric members should prepare for increased demand response hours this season

If you're a member enrolled in your co-op's off-peak (or demand response) program, knowing the "why" behind the moments your dual fuel heating is temporarily switched is likely important to you – especially during the long, cold months of winter. Our power supplier, Minnkota Power Cooperative, makes the decision of when to shift off-peak members to their backup heat source for a variety of reasons, but it all comes down to affordability and reliability.

In a typical winter season, Minnkota tries to keep its demand response hours managed to 250 hours. This year, the goal is the same, but there will be unique obstacles to overcome in order to meet it. One of those challenges is a three-month planned maintenance outage on Unit 2 of the Young Station, one of the largest sources of power for Minnkota's members.

"The outage is at beginning of the season, September into December, which is generally a light demand response period for us. The outage has the potential to increase our hours at the beginning of

the season," said Dan Trebil, Minnkota's energy supply manager. "That, combined with the volatile energy market that we're seeing, is going to play a part in how close we are able to manage to that 250-hour level."

When Minnkota needs additional energy to meet the needs of its members (perhaps when there's no wind for the turbines and demand is extremely high), it looks to purchase energy from a regional market. Over the past few months, that market has seen dramatic spikes in price – something Minnkota tries to avoid to protect its membership.

"The biggest things that are playing into the volatility are transmission constraints in our area, as well as the price of natural gas," Trebil explained. "Right now, the price of natural gas is actually the lowest it's been in the past few months. That was somewhat anticipated, but it's also anticipated that it will go back up come December or January."

It's important for members to prepare now for increased

demand response this winter. Individuals with off-peak dual fuel heating systems should check that they have adequate fuel for their backup source (propane, fuel oil, etc.). Off-peak members are sometimes caught by surprise when demand response kicks in for the first time, especially when it's early in the season.

Remember that your co-op's demand response program is a win-win-win for all involved. Enrolled members are thanked with a reduced electric rate (and no interruption in comfort), the co-op can navigate high-demand days while avoiding expensive market purchases, and the entire regional grid benefits from reduced demand.

"We're in an interconnected system," Trebil said. "When the grid gets into a potentially unstable situation, it's because of tight conditions between generation and demand. So we're able to respond in those situations with our demand response to not only help us and our members, but the grid as a whole. Lowering our demand helps balance the entire footprint."



5 electric holiday gifts



Make the holidays electric this year with a wide variety of electric-powered gifts for everyone's wish lists! Whether you are shopping for the perfect present for a do-it-yourselfer or looking to surprise your teenager with a brand-new ride, the value of electricity supplies you with some crowd-pleasing options. Here are five electric gifts that are sure to receive glowing reviews this holiday season.

1.



ELECTRIC BIKES

E-bikes are the perfect gift for any family member big or small! With a variety of types and styles, you are sure to find an e-bike that fits the needs of even the hardest-to-shop-for person on your list. Pedal assistance allows you to make a sweat-free commute to work, while also allowing you to work off those well-worth-it holiday treats on your way home.

2.



ELECTRIC SNOWBLOWERS

This time of the year is the best time to upgrade your loved ones' snow removal equipment! Electric snowblowers are quieter than traditional gas-operated models, and you don't have to store gas all winter long to get your equipment running on cold winter mornings. With just a simple push of a button, a dreaded winter task can be done with ease.

3.



ELECTRIC KITCHEN APPLIANCES

Crockpots, pressure cookers, air fryers – oh my! Electric kitchen appliances can cut meal prep time in half. From electric can openers to electric kettles, these time-saving gadgets are a big hit with first-time homeowners. The list of awesome electric appliances is endless!

4.



BATTERY-OPERATED TOOLS

Do you have a DIYer or a tinkerer in your family? Consider getting them a set of brand-new battery-operated tools this holiday season. Battery-power tools offer the user greater flexibility and portability without sacrificing any of the power needed to get the job done.

5.



ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Looking to score some major "cool parent" points? Consider getting the new driver in your family an electric vehicle! Most electric vehicles can be charged fully for about \$8 and if you are already participating in North Star Electric's off-peak program, you are eligible for some really awesome savings. Check out www.energizeyourdrive.com to get more information about the benefits of electric vehicles.



PROBLEMS PAYING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL? ENERGY ASSISTANCE MAY BE AVAILABLE!

If you recently lost your job or had your hours cut, the following agencies may be able to help you with your electric bill. You may have never needed help before, but maybe today you do.

LAKE OF THE WOODS COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES

206 8th Ave SE, Suite 200
Baudette, MN 56623-2895
218-634-2642

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
218-283-7000

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



STAFF REPORT – WINTER SEASON IS HERE



Tim Pelach
Operations Manager

Greetings, everyone. Well, that was a quick transition to winter this year. I hope everyone was able to get those last-minute projects done. I like to see the snow hold off until around Christmas to give things time to freeze up a little. It sure helps winter projects when there is a little frost in the ground to make it easier to get around. Our summer construction season is over, and it was a busy summer on both ends of the system.

The number of new services is right up there again this year. I think a lot of people are getting a start on future retirement plans to get things established and finish as time allows for the work to get done.

Our work on the flooding situation is still ongoing with FEMA. It looks like this could turn into a major undertaking next summer when all the paperwork is in place (121-27-001-04, Jeff Otto). I would like to thank all the employees for their time and effort in keeping the lights on and handling the paperwork and documents associated with this getting done in addition to their regular tasks.

Some of you in the Williams area will see our crews changing rejected poles this winter after the pole testing was completed. We tested the north half of the substation, which consisted of around 1,800 poles, and only 29 failed, so that's a good indication of the condition of the system.

That's all for now. Be careful if you're heading out on the new ice.

Tim

ENERGY SAVING TIP

Keep the temperature of the water heater to the warm setting (120°F). This will not only save energy, it will also help avoid scalding.



SALES TAX EXEMPTION

Members who use electricity as their primary source of residential heat are exempt from paying taxes on the electricity purchased during the billing months of November through April. If more than one type of heat is used, electricity is not taxable only if it is the primary source of heat for the largest period of time during the heating season.

If you have not previously applied, you can find the form on our website, or by contacting Brittany at **218-634-2202**.

NORTH STAR ELECTRIC POLITICAL LEADERS

FEDERAL LEGISLATORS

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
www.whitehouse.gov
202-456-1111

Senator Tina Smith
720 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.smith.senate.gov
202-224-5641

Senator Amy Klobuchar
425 Dirksen Senate Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.klobuchar.senate.gov
202-224-3244
1-888-224-9043 (Minnesota office)
Fax: 202-228-2186

Congressman Pete Stauber
126 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
www.stauber.house.gov
202-225-6211

Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach
1237 Longworth House Office Bldg.

Washington, D.C. 20515
www.fischbach.house.gov
202-225-2165
Fax: 202-225-1593

STATE OF MINNESOTA LEGISLATORS

Governor Tim Walz
Capitol Bldg., Room 130
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
800-657-3717
www.mn.gov/governor

Senator Tom Bakk
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.; Capitol, Room 328
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-8881
www.senate.mn/members

Senator Paul Utke
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3403
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-9651
sen.paul.utke@senate.mn
www.senate.mn/members

Senator Mark Johnson
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651-296-5782
sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn
www.senate.mn/members

Representative Matt Grossell
227 State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-4265
rep.matt.grossell@house.mn
www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members

Representative John Burkel
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St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-9635
rep.john.burkel@house.mn
www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members

Representative Rob Ecklund
409 State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-2190
rep.rob.ecklund@house.mn
www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members

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

HOME COOKING

Little Cheddar Meatloaves

Easy-to-make, individual meatloaves for each person at the dinner table with a great contrast of savory meat, a sweet glaze and cheesy goodness.

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time	Servings
15 mins	20-30 mins	45 mins	6 servings

INGREDIENTS

- 1 egg
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup quick oatmeal or breadcrumbs
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 pound hamburger

TOPPING

- 2/3 cup ketchup
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1½ tsp. mustard

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Beat together the egg and milk.
2. Add shredded cheese, oatmeal/breadcrumbs,

onion, salt and hamburger to egg mixture.

3. Mix well and shape into 6 loaves.
4. Combine ketchup, brown sugar and mustard. Mix well and spoon over top of loaves.
5. Bake at 350° for 20-30 minutes or until desired doneness.

From the kitchen of Rachel Tomczak.



Receive a \$20 energy credit if you submit a recipe and it is selected to run in a future issue of the *Enlightener* newsletter.

12 DAYS of Energy Efficiency



North Star Electric wants to spread a little energy efficiency cheer this holiday season. Here are 12 days of energy efficiency tips that will keep the cold out and the savings in!

1. **Make sure your home is properly insulated** 
2. **Turn down your thermostat to slow the loss of heat** 
3. **Seal off and eliminate drafts near doors and windows this winter** 
4. **Lower your water heater temp to 120 degrees** 
5. **Let the sun in during the day** 
6. **Close window shades at night to keep the heat inside** 
7. **Switch to LED bulbs for the holidays** 
8. **Turn off lights when not in use** 
9. **Wash clothes with warm or cold water to cut your energy bill** 
10. **Use a power strip to turn electric appliances off** 
11. **Use your ceiling fan clockwise to circulate airflow** 
12. **Consider installing electric technology in your home** 

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

**23 & 26
DEC**

North Star's offices will be closed on Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26, in observance of Christmas.

**02
JAN**

North Star Electric Cooperative's offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 2, in observance of New Year's Day.

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)
Email us at nsec@wiktel.com | Visit our website at northstarelectric.coop

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Like your cooperative for outage updates during the winter season and other useful information.

 /northstarelectric

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.