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NATIONAL LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

APRIL 10, 2023 | #ThankALineworker

When the storm hits and the lights go out, they work until the power is restored. They dedicate their lives to serving our communities on the hottest days of summer and the darkest days of winter. Every day, moments of our lives are powered by their hard work and determination to provide the most reliable energy possible. On April 10, thank a lineworker for their vital service to our region and our homes. Keeping the lights on is just what they do.



Thank you to our lineworkers! Pictured from left to right: Nathan Zortman, Preston Kennedy, Eli Rahier, Blake Huwe, Jesse Huot, Todd Higgins, Josh Hamm, Travis Pederson, Todd Thydean and Nick Horne.



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.

NATIONAL LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

APRIL 10, 2023 | #ThankALineworker

10 things you may not know about lineworkers

There is a lot to be thankful for during spring. Warmer weather, blooming flowers and the celebration of **National Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 10**. To applaud the resiliency and dedication of our lineworkers, we are sharing 10 things you may not know about this important profession! **#ThankALineworker**

#1

Linework began in the 1840s with the invention of the telegraph. Strings were hung on trees, and later poles, to increase long-distance communication.

#2

Lineworkers climb electrical poles that range in height from 35 to 120 feet tall. They can carry around 50 pounds of protective gear with them up the pole.

#3

Lineworker duties include installing, repairing and maintaining distribution and transmission lines. They often encounter utility poles and transmission lines damaged by wildlife.

#4

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics ranks lineworker as one of the most dangerous jobs in the country.

#5

Lineworkers often travel for work. On top of traveling throughout North Star Electric Cooperative's entire service area, they can also provide additional support to surrounding electric cooperatives in need.

#6

Lineworkers start their careers with an apprenticeship program. After about 6,000-8,000 hours, they graduate to journeyman lineworker status. North Star Electric has employed lineworkers since it first started operation in 1940.

#7

While on the job, lineworkers wear special clothing that is fire-resistant/arc flash protective. They have specialized rubber gloves/sleeves when working around energized lines and wear boots with spikes or gaffs strapped to the sides to help make climbing safer and more efficient.

#8

Lineworkers use equipment belts around their waists to carry any tools or pieces of equipment they may need when repairing a pole. A few tools you can almost always find in a lineworker tool belt include hammers, screwdrivers, pliers, crimping tools, wire stripping tools, bolt cutters, and so much more!

#9

Lineworkers work in some of the harshest conditions Mother Nature has to offer. Snow, rain or shine, lineworkers do their best to keep the lights on all year long. Lineworkers are also some of the first to respond after major storms.

#10

North Star wouldn't be able to deliver safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members without dedicated lineworkers!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the Feb. 8, 2023, regular board meeting. All board members were in attendance, with the exception of President Arnesen who was absent. In addition to routine actions, the board voted to approve RUS forms allowing Interim General Manager Kevin Holen to execute and submit RUS forms on behalf of North Star, to approve the allocation of 2022 operating margins to the members' capital credit accounts, to approve the transfer of final unpaid delinquent bills from current accounts receivable to the reserve for uncollectible, to select Steve Arnesen as the North Star representative on Minnkota Power Cooperative's board of directors, to select Mike Hanson as the North Star representative on Square Butte Electric Cooperative's board of directors, and to approve moving the April board meeting to March 29 to coincide with the Minnkota membership meeting and the Minnkota and Square Butte annual meetings.

Staff reports included the safety report, the monthly financial report, the new power outage reporting option in SmartHub, the upcoming audit of the group benefits program, billing demand measurements, ripple receiver inspections and repairs, water heater sales, red and yellow zone control, new services

and upgrades, work plan projects, contracted right-of-way clearing, outages, a matching tool grant award from the Minnesota Department of Labor, recent Minnkota power outages and corrective actions they have taken, legislative news, upcoming meetings and repairs needed to the Littlefork building drainage system.

Detailed minutes are available at the cooperative for member review (654-29-057-03, Alvin Hasbargen). 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 the co-op at least two weeks in advance to be included on the agenda.



North Star Electric to award Cooperative Knowledge scholarships

North Star Electric Cooperative will be awarding five scholarships, one \$1,000 and four \$500, plus a chance to win one of eight \$100 cash awards just for scoring over 60% on the test (251-24-148-02, Lonny Schweitzer). Most of the test answers will be included in the study material that North Star provides.

In order to qualify:

- ▶ The parent/guardian must be a member of North Star Electric Co-op
- ▶ Student must be a 2023 graduate
- ▶ Student must be actively enrolled in a postsecondary school
- ▶ Candidates must take a short test about the cooperative that provides electricity to their home

Contact your high school guidance counselor to sign up!

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President
Steve Arnesen

Vice President
Michael Hanson

Secretary-Treasurer
Lorraine Nygaard

Directors
Shelley Spears
Randy Bergan
Tom Smith
Douglas King

Interim General Manager
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: 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

ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE STRATEGY ENSURES THE BEST ENERGY VALUE

“Don’t put all your eggs in one basket.”

It’s a familiar saying, and believe it or not, that age-old piece of wisdom is used by electric cooperatives to make sure you receive a reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible supply of electricity. Each of the primary generation resource options across the country has both advantages and disadvantages. This is why an all-of-the-above energy strategy is so crucial. If a utility ties itself to one resource, it is exposed to

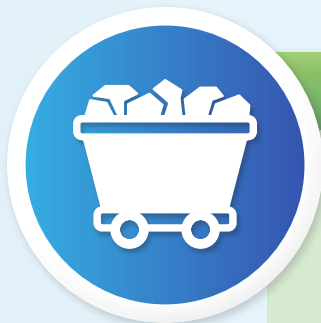
all the risks associated with that resource. By diversifying, utilities are able to take advantage of the pros and limit their exposure to the cons.

North Star Electric Cooperative receives a diverse mix of coal, wind and water from its wholesale power supplier, Minnkota Power Cooperative, to meet your 24/7 electricity needs. Future power supply decisions take into account numerous factors, including permitting; capital, operating and maintenance costs; existing

generation mix; reliability and resiliency; and projected member demand for electricity.

Decisions to build or purchase from new generation resources are carefully considered. Building any new generation resource at grid scale can cost hundreds of millions of dollars and require decades of investment and commitment. That makes it uneconomic to switch back and forth between power supply options over short periods of time.

What is considered when power supply decisions are made?



LIGNITE COAL

Advantages

- Abundant, domestic fuel source
- Stable pricing
- Can reliably run 24 hours per day
- Technology has been developed to address emissions (exploration of Project Tundra)

Disadvantages

- Extraordinarily difficult to permit
- Cannot economically rail lignite coal due to high moisture content
- Can be difficult to ramp up and down to accommodate renewable production
- Releases CO₂. Anticipate CO₂ regulations, although CO₂ capture technology is rapidly advancing



NATURAL GAS

Advantages

- Lower CO₂ emission levels than coal
- Can be run 24/7 or used during peak events
- Can respond rapidly to dispatch

Disadvantages

- Fuel costs can be volatile and impacted by events outside of the U.S.
- Pipeline infrastructure not adequate for projected demand
- Still releases CO₂ emissions



NUCLEAR

Advantages

- No air emissions
- Can reliably run 24 hours per day
- Smaller, modular reactors are in development

Disadvantages

- High capital cost and increasingly expensive fuel
- Radioactive waste that must be properly disposed of and monitored
- Extraordinarily difficult to permit and build
- Cannot ramp up and down to accommodate renewable production



HYDRO

Advantages

- No fuel cost
- Low-cost energy to consumer
- No air emissions
- Can respond rapidly to dispatch

Disadvantages

- Nearly impossible to permit
- Affects fish and wildlife habitat
- Alters the natural flow of rivers
- Virtually no resources left to develop (some dams being removed)



WIND

Advantages

- No fuel cost
- No air emissions
- Cost-competitive with other resources

Disadvantages

- Has intermittent production (produces about 45% of its potential on an annual basis)
- Requires investment in backup generation resources
- Grid-scale battery backup technology is still in its infancy
- Turbines take a larger footprint to produce the same energy as other resources and can impact bird and wildlife populations
- Cannot operate in extreme cold and ice conditions



SOLAR

Advantages

- No fuel cost
- No air emissions
- Costs are slightly higher than other resources, but are trending downward

Disadvantages

- Has intermittent production (produces about 15-19% of its potential on an annual basis)
- Requires investment in backup generation resources
- Grid-scale battery backup technology is still in its infancy
- Solar panels take a larger footprint to produce the same energy as other resources
- Production affected by clouds, snow and extreme cold temperatures
- Panel production degrades over time

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 – REPAIR WORK



Tim Pelach
Operations Manager

Greetings, everyone. Well, winter is coming to an end and it wasn't too bad this year – plenty of snow, along with some mild weather helped pass the time and made it more enjoyable. This is the time of year we are doing our annual line inspections so you may see our crews coming and going from your yards looking at the power lines.

On another note, we have a plan in place to deal with the flooding situation from last summer. We will be contracting repair work for the affected equipment and this will be substantial. Most of you in the Rainy Lake and Kabetogama areas will be affected by this in one way or another. We will be sending letters to members keeping them informed of the process, but everyone is going to see a fair amount of outage times here and there while repairs are being made (435-35-006-07, Kathleen Cooper). We will do our best to keep these to a minimum. I am anticipating this will last all summer and into fall. Hopefully we can complete it in one season.

As spring rolls in and it seems like a good idea to do some burning, please be mindful of the electrical equipment – it doesn't like fire and it's expensive.

And let's not forget April 10 is National Lineworker Appreciation Day. These folks do a heck of a job to keep the lights on. That's all for now, Tim

Don't let controlled burns backfire this spring season!

HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN PLANNING FOR A CONTROLLED BURN:

- 1 Keep things like the temperature, humidity and wind speed in mind when planning a controlled burn. Check the radar before beginning a fire.
- 2 **DO NOT** start a fire near power poles. Burning poles can cause widespread outages and could be costly for the individual who set the fire.
- 3 Cut grass and weeds, and water areas near any power poles to keep the fire from approaching.
- 4 If a pole does catch fire, call 9-1-1 and your local co-op right away. Even if you can put the fire out yourself, the pole could still be burning from the inside and become extremely hazardous.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY: TIP OF THE MONTH

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home. – Source: energy.gov.



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 Amy Klobuchar
425 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.klobuchar.senate.gov
202-224-3244;
Fax: 202-228-2186

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

Congresswoman Michelle
Fischbach, U.S. House (7th
District)
1004 Longworth House Office
Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
fischbach.house.gov
202-225-2165;
Fax: 202-225-1593

Congressman Pete Stauber,
U.S. House (8th District)
145 Cannon House Office
Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
stauber.house.gov
202-225-6211

STATE OF MINNESOTA LEGISLATORS

Governor Tim Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King,
Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-201-3400

Minority Leader
Senator Mark Johnson (01, R)
2401 Minnesota Senate
Building
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651-296-5782
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651-296-5516;
Toll Free: 877-838-5537
rep.matt.bliss@house.mn

Representative Roger Skraba
(03A, R)
221 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-2190

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

Pepper Steak Stir Fry

This pepper steak stir fry is thinly sliced flank steak cooked with red and green bell peppers in a savory sauce. A quick and easy meal that tastes better than takeout!

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time	Servings
10 mins	20 mins	30 mins	4

INGREDIENTS

- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil (*divided*)
- 1 red bell pepper (*cored, seeded and cut into strips*)
- 1 green bell pepper (*cored, seeded and cut into strips*)
- 1½ pounds flank steak (*thinly sliced*)
- 2 tsp minced garlic
- 1 tsp minced ginger
- Salt and pepper to taste
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- 1½ Tbsp sugar
- 1½ Tbsp cornstarch

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat 1 tsp of the vegetable oil over medium high heat in a large pan.
2. Add the peppers and cook for 3-4 minutes or until just tender. Remove the peppers from the pan and place on a plate.
3. Add the remaining oil to the pan. Season the flank steak with salt and pepper to taste.
4. Increase heat to high. Add the steak to the pan and cook for 5-6 minutes or until lightly browned.
5. Add the garlic and ginger, then cook for 30 seconds.
6. Place the peppers back in the pan with the steak.
7. In a small bowl, whisk together the soy sauce, sugar, ¼ cup water and cornstarch.
8. Pour the sauce over the steak mixture and bring to a simmer. Cook for 2-3 minutes or until sauce has just thickened, then serve.

From the kitchen of Chris and Katie Pieper.



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

Dig Smart. Dig Safe. Call 811.



Keep your family safe by knowing what's below! Before you dig, **call 811** or visit **call811.com** to mark underground utility lines. One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked and helps protect you from injury and expense. Safe digging is no accident.

COLOR CODING FOR MARKING UNDERGROUND UTILITIES	
WHITE	Proposed excavation
PINK	Temporary survey markings
RED	Electric power lines, cables, conduit and lighting cables
YELLOW	Gas, oil, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials
ORANGE	Communication, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduit
BLUE	Water
PURPLE	Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines
GREEN	Sewer and drain lines



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

**03
MAY**

North Star Electric will hold its next monthly board meeting on Wednesday, May 3, if you wish to speak to the board.

**29
MAY**

North Star Electric's offices will be closed on Monday, May 29, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

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 spring season and other useful information.

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