

**DEMAND RESPONSE SEASON
HAS ARRIVED**

PAGE 2

**STAFF REPORT – TESTING
AND EQUIPMENT**

PAGE 7

**KOREAN BEEF AND RICE
RECIPE**

PAGE 7

MINNKOTA SELECTED TO CONTINUE FORWARD IN NEW ERA PROGRAM

(LEARN MORE ON PAGE 4)



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.

DEMAND RESPONSE SEASON HAS ARRIVED -

IS YOUR HEATING SYSTEM READY?

It's time to prepare for the winter season, and we're already hearing that this one could be a doozy. The Farmers' Almanac isn't always right when it comes to predicting the weather (it was well off the mark last winter, when a projected cold, snowy winter ended up unseasonably mild), but the publication's longstanding climate formula suggests a colder-than-average December-March is on the horizon.

Whatever happens, you need to make sure your heating system is ready for the chill, especially if you are a voluntary member of North Star Electric's demand response program (often referred to as off-peak). Last year's mild winter meant demand response was deployed for fewer than 85 hours – well below the anticipated level. This year, our cooperative system is preparing for 200 hours of estimated demand response.

When winter demand for electricity gets high (like when many homes and businesses are using electric heat for extended periods), our power provider, Minnkota Power Cooperative, initiates the demand response program across the region. Those who are enrolled are automatically switched to a non-electric backup heat source, like fuel oil, propane or natural gas. If those backups have not been tested or fuel sources haven't been refilled, a homeowner may not know there's an issue until demand response hits.

If you are on the demand response (off-peak) program, now is the time to check your backup heating sources to make sure your fuel tanks are full and functioning. Minnkota will run a demand response test in early December, and members should reach out to their cooperative with

any questions or concerns before extreme weather hits.

WHY DO WE NEED DEMAND RESPONSE?

Minnkota Power Cooperative is typically able to cover its demand with its own energy resources – a mix of coal, wind and hydropower. However, there are times during planned generator outages, extreme weather events or low wind supply that Minnkota must buy power from the energy market. By reducing the demand across the region, Minnkota can protect itself from costly market purchases for peak need that only comes a few times a year. That, in turn, keeps rates low for consumer-members – like you! By being a part of the demand response program, you can also take advantage of an even lower electric rate without any disruption in comfort.

If you would like more information on how you can save during the winter season, give us a call at the co-op or visit northstarelectric.coop.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from Sept. 4, 2024, regular board meeting. All board members were in attendance. In addition to approving routine actions, the board approved proceeding with moving forward to secure estimates for a new digger truck for Littlefork, with the expected lead time to be two or three years.

Staff reports included the safety report, the monthly financial report, changes in employee group benefits for 2025, the annual financial audit to be conducted by CliftonLarsonAllen, new services, service upgrades and retirements, progress on work plan projects across the service area, contracted right-of-way spraying, annual

truck inspections, outages, demand response, ripple receiver inspections and repairs, new AMI equipment, off-peak accounts, distributed generation, rebates, National Night Out, the upcoming annual meeting and building security enhancements.

Detailed minutes are available at the cooperative for member review. Regular board meetings are generally held the first Wednesday of every month (252-01-079-01, Dan Ewings). 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.



SAFETY TIP

Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from flammable items.

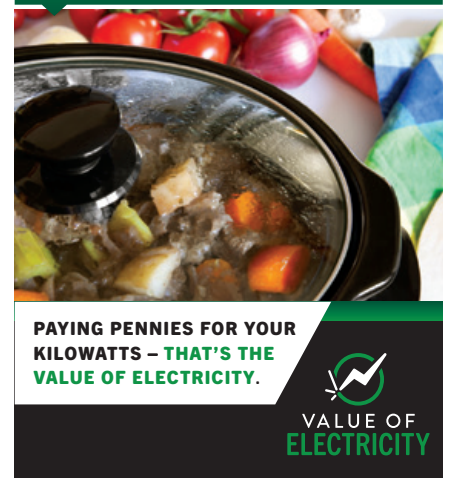


ENERGY SAVING TIP

If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. You can also unplug devices when they aren't in use.



FOR JUST THE CHANGE IN YOUR POCKET, YOU CAN MAKE SOME DELICIOUS SLOW-COOKER SOUP OVER FIVE HOURS USING ONE KILOWATT-HOUR.



PAYING PENNIES FOR YOUR KILOWATTS – THAT'S THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY.



OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President
Steve Arnesen

Vice President
Michael Hanson

Secretary-Treasurer
Shelley Spears

Directors
Randy Bergan
Tom Smith
Douglas King

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



MINNKOTA SELECTED TO CONTINUE FORWARD IN NEW ERA PROGRAM

Minnkota Power Cooperative, North Star's wholesale power provider, has been selected as one of 16 electric cooperatives across the nation to move forward in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's New ERA program, federal officials announced on Sept. 5. Collectively, the cooperatives will have access to \$7.3 billion in federal funding to advance projects that will reduce carbon emissions.

Although final approvals have not yet been granted, this New ERA investment would support Minnkota's pursuit of the Project Tundra carbon capture initiative as well as the procurement of 370 megawatts of wind energy in North Dakota.

"As we enter one of the most transformational periods in our industry's history, the New ERA program represents a positive opportunity for our membership and many others across rural America," said Minnkota President and CEO Mac McLennan. "We are grateful to continue forward as we pursue development of Project Tundra – a bold carbon capture initiative in North Dakota – as well as the advancement of 370 megawatts of new wind energy resources in the state. New ERA helps not-for-profit cooperatives like Minnkota more cost-effectively decarbonize power supply portfolios, while retaining a

reliable and resilient electric grid for the members we serve."

The funding process was highly competitive, with electric cooperatives submitting 157 letters of interest for 750 projects in 2023. If each of those projects were funded, it would require at least twice the amount of funding available through the New ERA program.

The announcement was made during a Sept. 5 visit to Wisconsin by President Joe Biden and USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack. The New ERA funding opportunity was part of the Inflation Reduction Act, which passed in 2022 and provided \$9.7 billion in budget authority specifically for electric cooperatives to develop clean energy systems. Grants, loans or both will be provided for projects that achieve the greatest reduction in greenhouse gas emissions associated with rural electric systems (121-18-006-03, Sybil McLaughlin). This includes the advancement of renewable energy, battery storage, carbon capture, nuclear and other projects that will lower greenhouse gas emissions and otherwise aid disadvantaged rural communities.

The New ERA program is touted as the largest investment in rural electrification since President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Rural Electrification Act into law in 1936.

JAN 2025



ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

**CONTINUING
EDUCATION COURSES**

Minnkota Power Cooperative, North Star Electric Cooperative and its partners will again provide an opportunity for area electricians to obtain credits for license renewal by attending one of the six continuing education classes being offered throughout eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.

Instructor Tim Pull will present "100 Questions on the 2023 NEC," which looks at several code questions that may be asked when taking a typical electrical exam for a journeyman or masters license. The seminars are approved in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota for eight hours of continuing education credit necessary for renewing electrical licenses. The classes will be held at the following locations:

**Tuesday,
January 7, 2025**

*Fargo Holiday Inn
3803 13th Avenue South
Fargo, ND*



**Wednesday,
January 8, 2025**

*Fargo Holiday Inn
3803 13th Avenue South
Fargo, ND*



**Thursday,
January 16, 2025**

*Bemidji Eagles Club
1270 Neilson Avenue SE
Bemidji, MN*



**Tuesday,
January 21, 2025**

*Bigwood Event Center
921 Western Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN*



**Wednesday,
January 29, 2025**

*Minnkota Power Cooperative
5301 32nd Avenue South
Grand Forks, ND*



**Thursday,
January 30, 2025**

*Minnkota Power Cooperative
5301 32nd Avenue South
Grand Forks, ND*



This marks the 37th year of the successful program, which is aimed at providing area trade allies with the latest information on electrical code and practices. Taking the class on multiple days will not qualify for 16 code credits. The registration fee is **\$80 for eight code credits**. Registration can be done online at www.minnkota.com and must be completed at least seven days prior to the seminar.

For residential building contractor continuing education workshops, contact your local home builders association.

For more information about the program, please call **(701) 795-4292** or e-mail any questions to contractortraining@minnkota.com.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

7:15 - 8 a.m.
Registration

8 a.m. - noon
Classroom instruction

Noon - 1 p.m.
Lunch served

1 - 5 p.m.
Classroom instruction

\$80 REGISTRATION FEE

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



Celebrate with Savings LED Lighting Rebate

Buy energy-efficient holiday lights and decorations in 2024

How to Apply:

1. Purchase LED holiday plug-in (not battery-operated) lights and decorations in 2024.
2. Complete this rebate form and submit it to North Star Electric Cooperative by Dec. 31, 2024, 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 _____

Lights on String	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



Electrical Safety Tips for Hunters

We encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.

- Keep clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Know where power lines and equipment are located where you hunt.
- Be vigilant in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- Never place deer stands on utility poles.
- Never place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment.

STAFF REPORT – TESTING AND EQUIPMENT



Tim Pelach
Operations Manager

Greetings, everyone. Here we are at the end of October and winter is right around the corner. Summer sure went by quickly. The list of projects this summer never seemed to slow down and kept all of us very busy. One of the benefits we had this summer was the addition of a boring machine and a vacuum trailer, which we haven't had in the past. We had always relied on outside contractors for that type of work that usually resulted in scheduling backlogs and added expenses to the job. There has definitely been a learning curve involved with operating this type of construction equipment, but I feel the guys adjusted well and are getting more comfortable with the process.

The pole testing has been completed on our International Falls substation. We tested approximately 1,900 poles for integrity. We test one substation every year, which has us on a required 10-year rotation between substations (673-34-014-02, Norman S. Larsen). So, our crews in that area will be changing

out the rejected ones this winter and some might require waiting until next spring.

Our right-of-way spraying contractor has wrapped up the season and covered most of our International Falls and Kabetogama substations. We ran out of time to get to the Big Falls area, so that will be done next year with some additional areas on the west side of the system. The crews have been busy putting the finishing work in on the Birchdale cable replacement job that started last fall and got postponed because of the wet spring this season. That should be coming to an end soon.

Preparations for next summer's projects are underway, which will include a substantial rebuild of a line to help take advantage of our new substation in the Roosevelt area to help with load balance and switching capabilities in that area.

Even though we have had a great fall for farmers and the harvest, please be safe and on the lookout for the remaining activity with the large equipment moving around on the roads. I've already heard about too many accidents.

Good luck in the deer stands this year. That's all for now, Tim

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.

ST. LOUIS and KOOCHICHING COUNTIES

Brian Johnson
218.240.1928

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

LAKE OF THE WOODS and ROSEAU COUNTIES

Ronald Ditsch
651.368.2195

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

HOME COOKING

Korean Beef and Rice

This simple meal with tons of flavor is so incredibly easy to make and will become a family favorite. This makes the perfect weeknight meal.

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time	Servings
5 mins	15 mins	20 mins	4

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 3 garlic cloves, *minced*
- ¼ cup packed brown sugar
- ¼ cup reduced-sodium soy sauce
- 2 tsp sesame oil
- ¼ tsp ground ginger
- ¼ tsp crushed red pepper flakes
- ¼ tsp pepper

- 2½ cups hot cooked rice (*brown or white*)
- 3 green onions, *thinly sliced*

INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a large skillet, cook beef and garlic over medium heat 6-8 minutes or until beef is no longer pink, breaking beef into crumbles.
2. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, mix together brown sugar, soy sauce, oil and seasonings.



3. Stir sauce into beef, heat through.
4. Serve with rice. Sprinkle with green onions.

NOTE: I have used leftover chicken and steak instead of hamburger.

From the kitchen of Karen Ryba.

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

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

North Star Electric Cooperative donates unclaimed capital credits to local charitable programs and organizations



Robyn Sonstegard, North Star Electric finance manager (*right*), presents an unclaimed capital credit check to Laurie Baade, a representative of the Baudette Community Foundation.

"Commitment to community is a driving force behind your cooperative as we support programs that improve the lives of those who live in the communities we serve."

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

28-29
NOV

North Star's Baudette and Littlefork offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28-29, in observance of Thanksgiving.

11
DEC

North Star will hold its next monthly board meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 11. Please contact us ahead of time if you would like to be added to the agenda.

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 855-938-3492 | **Online billing** info available via SmartHub app
Electrical after-hours emergencies 1-888-60OUTAGE (1-888-668-8243)
Email us at nsec@wiktel.com | **Visit our website at** northstarelectric.coop

The Enlightener (USPS 024959), is published monthly by North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc., 441 St. Hwy 172 N.W., Baudette, MN 56623-8942.

General manager – Kevin Holen | Editor – Kevin Holen

Subscription price \$1/year. Periodicals postage paid at Baudette, MN 56623. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to the Enlightener, North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 719, Baudette, MN 56623-0719.

'LIKE' US ON FACEBOOK TO STAY UP TO DATE

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

 /northstarelectric

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.