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*Merry
Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR*

*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.

THE **POWER** OF BASELOAD ENERGY

Did you know that electricity must be used the moment it's generated? That's right – electricity travels from the power plant, wind turbine or solar panel to your home in less than a second. It either gets used or keeps moving, because it physically doesn't have the patience to hang around until you need it.

On a small scale, batteries have been our way of overcoming this quirk of physics; you can allow electricity to fill a battery with its power to be deployed when it's needed. However, when it comes to power at a larger scale than smartphones or electric cars – say, the greater electric grid, for instance – batteries cannot yet keep up with the amount of electricity needed to power entire communities.

This is why baseload electricity is so important.

Baseload electricity comes from sources that operate continuously to meet regular power demand 24/7, like coal plants, natural gas plants and nuclear plants. Other sources, like wind turbines and solar panels, are more weather dependent. If it's nighttime or overcast, solar panels can't produce much power. If the wind also isn't blowing at that time, turbines also can't produce power. If a grid system doesn't have access to baseload power, electricity stops when the weather says so.

As more baseload power plants are being retired from the grid, we are relying on more weather-dependent energy sources to meet a growing demand for electricity (783-33-014-05, Jay Backstrom). Grid operators and regulators are already sounding the alarm that a lack of stable baseload energy will make planning for future demand harder and will test the reliability of the electric grid sooner than we think. As a country built on reliable power, it's a test we cannot fail.

Eventually, we may have utility-scale battery storage and the other technologies we need to further rely on weather-dependent energy resources. Until then, we must protect the baseload resources that keep our homes, businesses, schools, hospitals and farms humming.

BASELOAD RESOURCES — 24/7 —



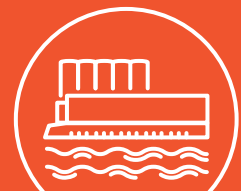
NUCLEAR



NATURAL GAS



COAL



HYDRO

WEATHER DEPENDENT



SOLAR



WIND

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from Oct. 2, 2024, regular board meetings. All board members were in attendance. In addition to approving routine actions, the board voted to approve Secretary-Treasurer Nygaard to sign the statement of mailing of the official notice of the annual meeting, to approve the annual review of Safety Policy 3.10, and to reschedule the December board meeting due to scheduling conflicts. Staff reports included the safety report, the monthly financial report, the director's portion of

the 2025 budget, unclaimed capital credit donations, the Cold Weather Rule, the FEMA project wrap up, the completion of the financial audit by CliftonLarsonAllen, new services, service upgrades, progress on work plan projects across the service area, contracted right-of-way spraying, pole testing in the International Falls area, annual truck inspections, outages, quotes for a replacement digger truck, demand response, ripple receiver inspections and repairs, distributed generation applications,

rebates, generator and GenerLink sales, the annual meeting, supply chain issues, strategic planning and Littlefork building updates.

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 the co-op at least two weeks in advance to be included on the agenda.



Tips for a Safe and Efficient Holiday Season

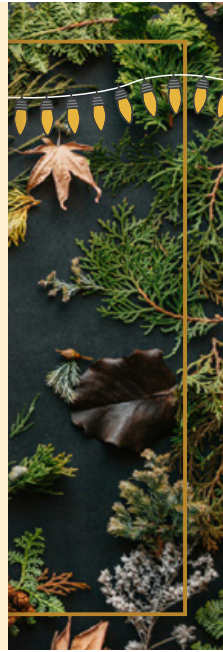
This holiday season, keep energy savings and electrical safety in mind.

SAVE ENERGY

- Use smaller appliances like slow cookers instead of the oven.
- Lower the thermostat when hosting friends and family.
- Decorate with energy-saving LED lights.

PRIORITIZE SAFETY

- Never leave unattended candles burning.
- Ensure all smoke alarms are working.
- When decorating, inspect all light strands and cords for damage.



HEAT 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**.

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

What **YOU** need to know about Capital Credits

There are many benefits to being a member of a not-for-profit electric cooperative. One of the best is that you're eligible for a little perk called capital credits! When North Star has excess revenues from the previous year, those funds are allocated to the membership as capital credits – a little extra money back to you.

Capital credits aren't necessarily returned every year, but the long-term benefits of the program are notable:



Member ownership

Capital credits represent members' ownership in the cooperative. As a member-owner, you have a stake in the financial success of the cooperative, rather than simply being a customer.



Equitable returns

Any excess revenue is returned to members based on their usage of electricity. The more you contribute to the cooperative's success through usage, the larger your share of the capital credits.



Financial strength

By retaining some earnings before capital credits are allocated, cooperatives can invest in infrastructure, maintenance and technology without relying heavily on loans, which can reduce operational costs in the long term.

How do you get your capital credits?

- 1** All year long, your cooperative keeps track of how much electricity you purchase and how much you spend.
- 2** North Star first uses the revenues to update and maintain critical infrastructure that increases reliability to the entire membership, along with other projects that meet the co-op's mission.
- 3** At the end of each year, your board of elected directors goes through the books to determine if there are any excess margins.
- 4** Your cooperative divides up (allocates) those excess funds to the members based on how much they paid for energy that year.
- 5** When your cooperative is in a good financial place, the board votes to pay out those allocated capital credits from a recent year or from a year well into the past.

If you have questions about capital credits or want to find out if you have any unclaimed credits, please contact North Star at **218-634-2202** or online at **northstarelectric.coop**.

Celebrate with Savings

LED Lighting Rebate

Buy energy-efficient holiday lights and decorations

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	

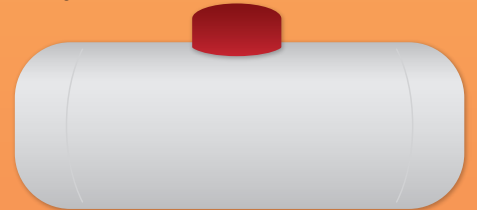
MAIL TO: North Star Electric Cooperative
 PO Box 719 • 441 St. Hwy. 172 NW • Baudette, MN 56623

DUAL FUEL MEMBERS:

PLEASE CHECK YOUR BACKUP SYSTEM FUEL SUPPLY

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 (795-21-053-04, John Dompier).
- **REMINDER:** Winter season load control time is managed to around 300 hours, but could change 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.



FIND HEAT UNDER YOUR FEET WITH AN ELECTRIC BOILER

ELECTRIC BOILER BENEFITS

QUIET

OFF-PEAK SAVINGS

AFFORDABLE

DEPENDABLE

EMISSION-FREE

Reduced heating rate and big rebates! Contact your co-op!



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 – BALANCING ELECTRICITY SUPPLY/DEMAND



Robyn Sonstegard
Finance Manager

Electricity is essential for nearly every aspect of daily life – so essential that we rarely think about how it’s produced and delivered to our homes. You might be surprised to learn that behind the scenes, a network of experts is working daily (and even by the minute) to anticipate how much electricity you need before you even use it.

We’re all connected to the electric grid, so ensuring the right amount of electricity for all involves a complex process of forecasting energy demand, planning for capacity and securing enough supply to meet Americans’ needs (121-40-082-02, Charles Pletsch).

Powerful generation sources

First, electricity must be generated at a power plant using either traditional sources, such as coal, natural gas or nuclear energy, or from renewable sources, such as solar, wind or hydropower. At North Star Electric Cooperative, we work closely with Minnkota Power Cooperative, our local wholesale power provider, to secure enough electricity for our communities, using a diverse mix of energy sources to generate the power we deliver to your home or business. By maintaining a diverse energy mix – coal, wind and hydropower – North Star has options to ensure reliable power at a competitive cost.

On a larger scale, across the country, electricity supply and demand are managed through a market that includes long-term planning agreements, where electricity is bought and sold just like other common goods and services. Because North Star works with our wholesale power provider, which is also a cooperative, we are able to pool resources and expertise to deliver affordable power to our local communities.

Electricity supply changes throughout the day because demand fluctuates based on consumers’ needs. For example, North Star knows that we need to ensure more electricity in the mornings when you’re starting your day, and in the evenings when you’re cooking dinner, running appliances and watching TV. Demand also increases when weather patterns change, such as extremely warm or cold temperatures.

Managing supply and demand across the grid

Across the country, other electric utilities are managing the same task of balancing supply and demand, which is why we have a larger network of key players in place to ensure enough power is delivered across the grid.

In most cases, the amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to specific areas are coordinated and monitored by regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs). In other areas, individual electric utilities perform these tasks. RTOs, ISOs and electric utilities act as air traffic controllers for the electric grid. They forecast when you, your neighbors and communities across a large region will need more power. These organizations take measured steps to ensure there’s enough supply to meet demand.

Looking ahead

As the energy sector undergoes rapid change, it’s important for all consumers to understand the basics of electricity supply and demand. Electricity use in the U.S. is expected to rise to record highs this year and next, with the demand for electricity expected to at least double by 2050. At the same time, energy policies are pushing the early retirement of always-available generation sources, which will undoubtedly compromise reliable electricity.

North Star remains committed to providing reliable energy to the members we serve. That’s why we are preparing now for increased demand and other challenges that could compromise our local electric supply. Managing the balancing act of electricity supply and demand is a complex job, which is why we have a network of utilities, power plant operators and energy traffic managers in place to direct the electricity we need and keep the electric grid balanced. To learn more about Minnkota’s power supply, visit www.minnkota.com.



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
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-5782
sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn

Senator Steve Green (02, R)
2319 Minnesota Senate
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St. Paul, MN 55155
651-297-8063
sen.steve.green@senate.mn

Senator Grant Hauschild
(03, DFL)
3111 Minnesota Senate
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651-296-1789
sen.grant.hauschild@senate.
mn

Representative Matt Grossell
(02A, R)
371 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-4265
rep.matt.grossell@house.mn

Representative Matt Bliss
(02B, R)
311 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-5516;
Toll Free: 877-838-5537
rep.matt.bliss@house.mn

Representative Roger Skrabala
(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.

ST. LOUIS and KOOCHICHING COUNTIES

Brian Johnson
612.757.9458

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

Cheese Soup with Vegetables

This recipe is packed with tender vegetables in a creamy and hearty cheesy soup. This meal has amazing flavor and is so comforting in the winter.

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time	Servings
10 mins	15 mins	25 mins	6

INGREDIENTS

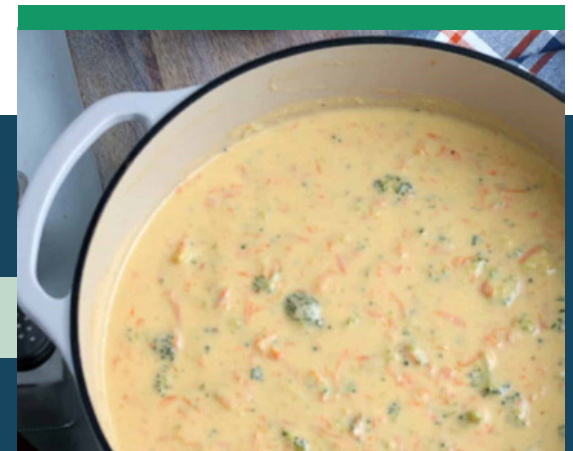
- 2 cups water
- 2 chicken bouillon cubes
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 can cream of potato soup
- 2 cups precooked vegetables (I like frozen mixed such as a medley of corn, green beans and carrots or a blend of broccoli, cauliflower and

carrots, or you could use fresh vegetables instead.)

- 2 cups Velveeta cheese

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Bring water to a boil in a large pot. Add in the chicken bouillon cubes until they are dissolved.
2. Add in creamy soups and vegetables once they are cooked (whether they are fresh or frozen).



3. When the mixture is heated through, add the Velveeta cheese until melted and stir until completely combined.

4. Serve and enjoy.

From the kitchen of
Georgianna Klaustermeier.

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

CONNECT YOUR PORTABLE GENERATOR



GenerLink provides members a safe and easy way to connect their portable generator during outages.

- No rewiring needed
- Ready to use when you need it
- Flexibility and control to select what you want to run using your home's circuit panel
- North Star's electric technicians will install the device at your electric meter

Contact North Star for more information and current pricing at **218-634-2202**.



North Star is now selling portable generators. Contact our office for more details.

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

24-25
DEC

North Star's Baudette and Littlefork offices will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 24-25, in observance of Christmas.

01
JAN

North Star Electric's Baudette and Littlefork offices will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 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 855-938-3492 | **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

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'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.