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**NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. MISSION STATEMENT**

Providing safe, reliable electric services to improve the quality of life in communities we serve.

# PREPARE YOUR HEATING SYSTEM

## FOR DEMAND RESPONSE SEASON

It may only be November, but the cold months of winter are sneaking up faster than any of us would like. To make sure you're not caught off guard, you'll want to confirm your home heating system is online and working properly. And if you're a volunteer member of North Star's demand response program (often called off-peak), we have some pre-winter projections and advice to ensure you're set for the season.

According to outlooks from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), both North Dakota and Minnesota expect to see a fairly normal winter, with near-average snowfall and temperatures. However, as lifelong Midwesterners know, the only thing predictable about our weather is its unpredictability, so your co-op will be preparing for 200 hours of estimated

demand response through the winter. For perspective, 127 hours of demand response were deployed last winter.

When electricity demand spikes, such as during extended cold spells when many homes rely on electric heat, our power provider, Minnkota Power Cooperative, activates the demand response program across the region. During these times, enrolled homes are automatically switched from electric heat to an alternative backup heat source, such as fuel oil, propane or natural gas (664-13-002-02, Robert Bahr). This switch helps reduce stress on the power grid and avoids costly electricity purchases from the market, ultimately helping keep rates low for all members. Plus, program volunteers receive a nearly 50% reduction in their electric heating rate.

### CHECK YOUR BACKUP HEAT

If you're part of the demand response program, it's critical to check your backup heating system now. This includes:

- Ensuring fuel tanks (propane, fuel oil, etc.) are filled
- Verifying that the backup system is working properly
- Confirming your system switches over automatically

**Minnkota will be conducting a demand response test in early to mid-December**, so now is the ideal time to make sure everything is in order. If you have any concerns, reach out to your co-op before winter weather arrives in full force!

If you want to learn more about North Star's demand response options, give us a call at **(218) 634-2202** or visit **[northstarelectric.coop](http://northstarelectric.coop)**.

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM

These are the highlights from the Sept. 3, 2025, regular board meeting. All current board members were in attendance (252-29-002-05, Susan Baron). In addition to routine actions, the board discussed the appointments to the labor negotiations committee.

Staff reports included the safety report, the monthly financial report, construction loan fund advances, the cooperative's website outage map, benefit rates, unclaimed capital credits, new services, upgrades, outages, contracted work plans for the Roosevelt and Ash Lake areas, contracted right-of-way spraying, pole testing in the Wheeler's Point area, demand response, ripple receiver inspections and repairs, solar applications, the metering system, water heater and GenerLink sales, participation in Baudette's National Night Out event, rebates, Littlefork

building repairs, Canadian work permits, line loss, the annual meeting, and the Ellendale data center tour.

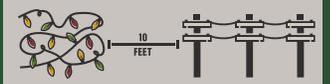
Director Hanson gave a report on the pending sale of the Indus School, and Directors Hanson, King, Ferguson, and Mathews discussed the Energy Issues Summit they attended recently.

Detailed minutes are available at the cooperative for member review. Regular board meetings are generally held on 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.

## WATCH THE WIRES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The time has finally arrived to create a winter wonderland in your yard for the holidays! But before you pull out all your lights, signs and inflatable reindeer, be sure to create a decorating plan that puts safety first. Always remember to **WATCH THE WIRES**.

STAY 10 FEET AWAY FROM OVERHEAD POWER LINES.



IF ANY DÉCOR IS GOING IN THE GROUND, CALL 811.

NEVER ATTACH DECORATIONS TO POWER POLES.



For more power line safety tips, visit [watchthewires.com](http://watchthewires.com).

## UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

27-28  
NOV

North Star's Baudette and Littlefork offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 27-28, in observance of Thanksgiving.

03  
DEC

North Star will hold its next monthly board meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 3. Please contact us ahead of time if you would like to be added to the agenda.

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

**President**  
Steve Arnesen

**Vice President**  
Michael Hanson

**Secretary-Treasurer**  
Shelley Spears

**Directors**  
Randy Bergan  
Richard Ferguson  
Douglas King  
Tim Mathews

**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](http://WWW.CALL811.COM) FOR MORE INFORMATION.



## LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

Past issues of the Enlightener are on our website at

[www.northstarelectric.coop](http://www.northstarelectric.coop)

# DATA CENTERS & ELECTRIC RATES

## MYTH



"DATA CENTERS WILL DRIVE UP MY ELECTRICITY COSTS."

## REALITY



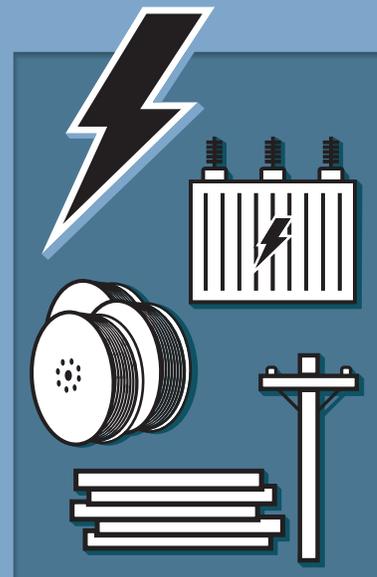
DATA CENTERS CAN ACTUALLY HELP KEEP ELECTRIC RATES STABLE.

## HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING:

1

**Most of your electric bill is made up of "fixed costs"**

When you pay your electric bill, you're not just paying for the power flowing into your home or business. You're also paying for the power plants, poles, wires, substations and other infrastructure that make the generation and delivery of that power possible. These are long-term investments, known as "fixed costs," that get paid for over decades, much like a mortgage. Every electric consumer contributes to those costs.



2

## Large electric consumers help cover these fixed costs

When a large customer – like a data center – connects to our system, they pay 100% of the new equipment they require (so others are not covering their upgrades). They also chip in heavily toward the existing system’s fixed costs. That means the more they pay into the system, the less pressure there is on regular consumers. Their contributions can help keep rates stable and lessen the need for future increases.

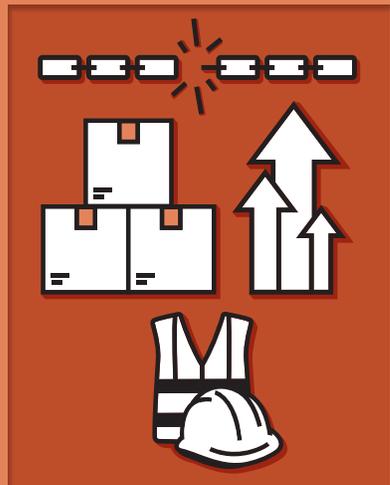


3

## Rates may still go up for other reasons

Does this mean rates never go up again? No.

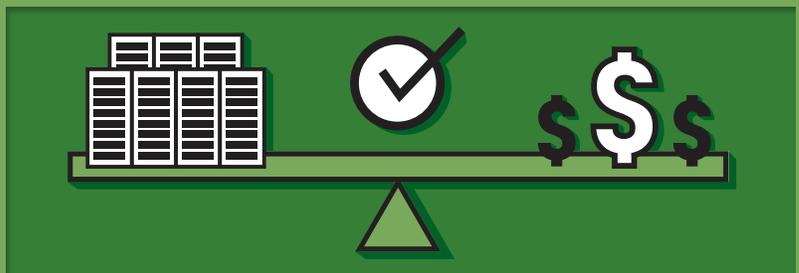
Factors like supply chain challenges, inflation and rising costs of labor and materials are pushing expenses higher across the entire industry. But the key is that data centers help limit the impacts. Without their contributions, those increases could be even steeper for everyone else.



4

## Takeaway

With the right partnerships and structures, data centers aren’t placing undue pressure on electric rates. By paying their fair share, they’re helping stabilize costs for all of us.



# 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

### How to Apply:



1. Purchase LED holiday plug-in (not battery-operated) lights and decorations in 2025.
2. Complete this rebate form and submit it to North Star Electric Cooperative by Dec. 31, 2025, 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  
P.O. Box 719 • 441 St. Hwy. 172 NW • Baudette, MN 56623

# BE ON THE HUNT FOR SAFETY

Hunters are urged to follow these safety tips while out hunting:

- Familiarize yourself with the location of power lines and equipment on land where you shoot.
- Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- Take notice of warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment on the poles can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them.

- Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Anything attached to a pole, except for utility equipment, is an obstruction and poses a serious hazard to utility workers.

Don't make lineworkers hunt for problems caused in a hunting area. Sometimes damage isn't noticed for several weeks or months, or unless an outage occurs.

Keep yourself and your utility safe this hunting season. For more electrical safety tips, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



# STAFF REPORT – POLE TESTING SYSTEM



**Tim Pelach**  
Operations Manager

Greetings, everyone. It is a soggy start to the week so this is a good time to get everyone caught up on this summer's progressions.

Our 85<sup>th</sup> annual meeting is behind us. It was held on an unseasonably warm day, and I remember working at a cooperative when they celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Hmmmm, time really flies.

The crews at both ends have been busy keeping up with the new service requests and upgrades this summer, in addition to our work plan projects and whatever else comes up in the meantime.

The results of our pole testing is in for our Wheeler's Point substation. With approximately 1,600 poles tested, we found 49 that failed. That is a pretty low number and a good testament to the condition of the system. The crews will be changing most of those poles this winter unless some must wait until spring.

Our right-of-way contractor has wrapped up for the season with spraying but will be doing some

mowing and tree trimming work in the area for a while. Some of you may be contacted by them if there is some work to be done in your area.

North Star has received two new bucket trucks that were ordered about three years ago. One of them is in Littlefork and one is in Baudette (252-12-049-06, Thomas Mio). The old ones are out on an auction site until Nov. 18 if anyone is interested. It is called Purple Wave Auctions, and they have a variety of items available.

We are also taking part in a campaign along with Minnkota Power Cooperative, our wholesale power provider, and the other co-ops in our system. It's a program called Watch the Wires, and it will help to promote safety around overhead power lines and bring awareness to the hazards associated with them. We have a variety of informational items and reminders for people to put in cabs or windows to help with watching out for those wires. If you're interested, you can stop by one of the offices and check things out.

I hope everyone can get out and enjoy what's left of the fall.

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](http://dli.mn.gov)) and go to the electrical page.

### ST. LOUIS and KOOCHICING 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

### Monster Cookie Bars

Soft and chewy bars with all of your favorites in one pan! The perfect dessert for parties, potlucks and the holidays.

Prep Time	Cook Time	Total Time	Servings
10 mins	20 mins	30 mins	24

#### INGREDIENTS

- ½ cup butter (*at room temperature*)
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 tsp baking soda
- 1½ cups peanut butter
- 1½ cups chocolate chips
- 1 cup M&Ms
- 1½ cups peanut butter M&Ms
- 4½ cups oatmeal

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cream together butter, both sugars, eggs, peanut butter and vanilla.
2. Add the dry ingredients and mix until

just combined. Stir in the chocolate chips and M&Ms.

3. Use a spatula to spread the mixture into the prepared pan.
4. Bake at 350°F for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown.

*From the kitchen of Julie Neumiller.*



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

**JAN / FEB  
2026**

**ELECTRICAL  
CONTRACTOR**

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EDUCATION  
COURSES**

**REGISTER  
ONLINE AT  
MINNKOTA.COM**

**\$85 TO  
REGISTER**

**EIGHT CODE  
CREDITS**

<p><b>January 6 or January 7, 2026</b> Fargo, North Dakota <i>Fargo Holiday Inn</i></p>	<p><b>January 15, 2026</b> Bemidji, Minnesota <i>Bemidji Eagles Club</i></p>
<p><b>January 22, 2026</b> Fergus Falls, Minnesota <i>Bigwood Event Center</i></p>	<p><b>February 3 or February 4, 2026</b> Grand Forks, North Dakota <i>Minnkota Power Cooperative</i></p>

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

Minnkota Power Cooperative, North Star 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 cover the 2026 National Electrical Code (NEC) changes and other important NEC rules. The seminars are approved in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota for eight hours of continuing education credit necessary for renewing electrical licenses.

This marks the 38<sup>th</sup> 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 \$85 for eight code credits.** Registration can be done online at [minnkota.com](http://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.

**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** 1-888-6OUTAGE (1-888-668-8243)  
**Email us at** [nsec@wiktel.com](mailto:nsec@wiktel.com) | **Visit our website at** [northstarelectric.coop](http://northstarelectric.coop)

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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.*