



Volts and Jolts

Published monthly for the members of
RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

SERVING THE FOUR-COUNTY AREA OF MARSHALL, PENNINGTON, RED LAKE AND POLK

VOL. 48 – NO. 4

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

JANUARY 2013

Member Meetings

Opportunity for information, discussion, fellowship

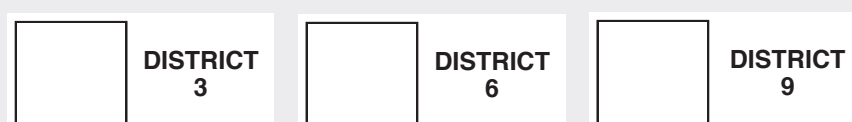
Meetings for the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative will be held at four locations within the Cooperative's service territory. Meetings will be held within Districts 3, 6 and 9.

The meetings are held to inform attendees on current issues and programs associated with the Cooperative. Official business will be conducted at the three district meetings, which will include the election of a director candidate.

Even though a meeting may not be scheduled within the district in which you reside, you are welcome to attend a meeting of your choice. Anyone requiring special access or assistance at any one of the meeting sites should call Red Lake Electric in advance so arrangements can be made. Door prizes will be awarded and lunch will be served at each meeting.

2013 Member Meeting Schedule

Day, Date, Time	Meeting	Location
Mon., Jan. 28, 1:30 p.m.	District 3	Newfalden Community Center, Newfalden
Mon., Jan. 28, 7:00 p.m.	District 6	Terrebonne Town Hall, Terrebonne
Tues., Jan. 29, 7:00 p.m.	District 9	Black River Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls



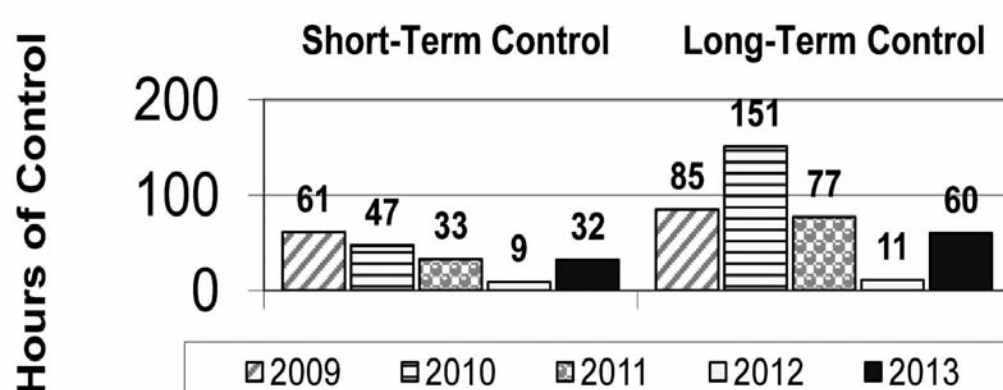
MEMBER MEETING DISTRICTS

QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

The chart below shows the amount of control time for Red Lake Electric Cooperative's Off-Peak customers this heating season compared to the same period the past four years. Control times have been less in recent years because of additional generation added to Minnkota Power Cooperative's resources. In 2009, generation added at the Ashtabula, ND wind farm increased Minnkota Power Cooperative's Wind Energy resources to 358 Megawatts (MW). In January of this year another 50 MW of generation was transferred to Minnkota as part of the Young 2 deal with Minnesota Power. Even with the temporary loss of generation from the Coyote power plant outage, Minnkota has adequate generation resources to reliably meet the needs of Red Lake Electric Cooperative members.

OFF-PEAK CONTROL HOURS Through January 14th



Conservation incentives to continue

The "Power Savers" Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) incentives will continue throughout 2013 much the same as in the past. This will be the fifth consecutive year that incentives are being offered for conservation measures.

Incentives offered for residential customers as part of the Residential Prescriptive Program include: CFL bulbs; LED bulbs and down light fixtures; Energy Star clothes washers; refrigerators, freezers, controlled energy efficient water heaters, 80 gallons or greater; programmable thermostats; ECM blower motors; qualifying air source and ground source heat pumps; supplemental electric heat with an air source heat pump; mini split/ductless air source heat pumps.

As part of the Business Prescriptive program, incentives offered for business customers includes: lighting, new construction and existing retrofits; VFD measures and food service measures; many HVAC measures similar to the residential measures but also including qualifying air conditioning equipment.

Business Custom incentives are also available for energy saving measures not



outlined in the prescriptive program. These incentives are determined by the cost of the measure, the payback on the measure, and the potential kilowatt hour savings.

CIP forms are available at Red Lake Electric Cooperative's office, the forms can be downloaded from Red Lake Electric's website at www.redlakeelectric.com, or the forms can be obtained from the contractor doing the work. When submitting a form, a copy of the invoice from the installing contractor, or from the business (1106001.07 Bryan Larson) the qualifying item was purchased, must be included. For HVAC measures an AHRI certificate of qualification must also be included.

All measures completed in 2013 must be submitted within the year. For addition-

al information visit Red Lake Electric's website or call the Cooperative office at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068.

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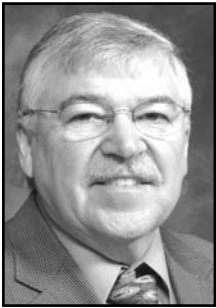
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Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



2013 budget approved

The 2013 operating and capital improvement (construction) budget was presented to and approved by your board of directors at their December board meeting.

There is no rate increase projected in the 2013 budget. The rates that went into effect with the October 2011 billing remain in effect for 2013.

RLEC's total cost of providing service to the members is budgeted at \$12.7 million, an increase of \$162 thousand or 1.3% above 2012. The majority (\$100 thousand) of RLEC's increased cost will be to cover an increase in budgeted energy purchases from Minnkota Power.

Wholesale power is expected to cost just over \$9.7 million in 2013 and makes up 77% of the \$12.7 million it will cost to provide RLEC members energy and electric service.

Non-wholesale power expenses or RLEC's distribution costs are budgeted to increase \$62,235 or 2.1% in 2013.

The Cooperative's budgeted energy sales for 2013 was set to increase slightly from 2012 to reflect new service construction the past year, along with the expectation that we'll experience (2217001.03 Dustin Coauette) a colder heating season than a year ago. Can we expect another harvest with virtually no grain drying like we've had the past two years? Despite the modest increase in sales projections in 2013 compared to 2012, the kWh sales budgeted is less than what we have averaged in sales to the members over the past nine years. Historical energy use trends show gradual sales growth over time but annual fluctuations up and down from

year to year are a normal part of RLEC's history.

Included with our 2013 budget for revenue and expenses is our plan for capital improvements. In addition to the normal replacement and maintenance to the electric distribution system, we have plans to add new distribution equipment and tie-lines that will help us carry out our mission of being a reliable energy provider for our members.

We have historically taken a conservative approach to our budgeting process and we did again this year; that is, we hope to do better with energy sales and expense forecasts. As the year unfolds, we've learned that it is much easier to deal with doing better than you expected vs. the opposite happening. It is our intention that the 2013 budget and our effort to carry this plan out will keep us on course to remain financially strong so that we can continue to be a source of reliable, competitively priced energy for you in 2013 and beyond.

Wire down low-down.

You would think that when a high voltage power line comes in contact with the ground that it would short out and become energized or dead. While that often is the outcome, sometimes these downed lines remain energized and pose a dangerous hazard.

Such was the case with a downed power line that remained energized in an incident last October in the Viking area and in another incident last week near our Highlanding substation five miles south of Goodridge. Last fall's hazard was created when an implement struck and broke one of our power line poles and the ener-

gized phase wire came in contact with the ground momentarily and then hung close to the ground within human reach. Last week a wire broke on a line south of Goodridge and remained energized while lying on the snow covered ground. In both incidents the power line remain energized until our crews could cut power at the nearest breaker. At the Goodridge location, about six feet of cable had burned off from arcing and the feed wire coming from the substation remained energized.

I want to commend the folks who happened upon both of these potential hazards for their proper handling of the situation: They stayed clear of the problem, they notified law enforcement so they could guard against an accidental contact with these downed lines, and Red Lake Electric Cooperative was (3421019-01 Goodridge School District) notified to fix the problem.

A hazard, a good outcome, and a good lesson for all.

Membership Meetings:

It is that time of year again, when the Cooperative holds it's District and informational meetings through out our service area. I encourage you to check out the meeting schedule included in this months issue of the Volts and Jolts and welcome customers to join us for one of the meetings located in your area. Our meeting format will be similar to previous years where we will provide information that we think you will find interesting and helpful, give you a chance to ask questions, and visit with RLEC staff and neighbors over pie and coffee. Hope to see you there.

Annual Meeting March 27

Red Lake Electric Cooperative members are encouraged to mark their calendars for the Cooperative's annual meeting. The meeting will be called at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 27, at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls.



Director elections to be held

Red Lake Electric Cooperative members in District 3, 6 and 9 will soon elect directors to represent them. The initial elections will take place at the upcoming district meetings. Final election will occur at the Cooperative's annual meeting March 27 if there is more than one nominee.

Districts 3, 6 and 9 are currently represented by Colette Kujava, Randy Versdahl and Peter Mosbeck, respectively.

Directors must be members residing in the district they represent and have no conflicts of interest regarding Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Any candidate for director must have his or her name stated as the "member" on the Cooperative's records.

For more information on director qualifications and responsibilities contact Roger Johanneck, General Manager, at 800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative Director qualifications requirements

No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director who:

- Is not a member of the Cooperative, receiving electric service at the member's primary residence in the district from which the director is elected.
- Within three years preceding a director candidate's nomination was an employee of the Cooperative.
- Is or becomes, or at any time during the three (3) years preceding a director candidate's nomination shall have been employed by a labor union, which represents, or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employees of the Cooperative.
- Is a parent, spouse or cohabitant of any employee of the Cooperative.
- Is a person who is a parent, spouse or cohabitant of an incumbent director who is not up for re-election at that time.
- Is in any way employed by or substantially financially interested in an enterprise competing with the Cooperative or any Cooperative-affiliated businesses.
- Is or becomes the full-time employee or agent of, or who is or becomes the full-time employer or principal of, another director.

Director nomination and election procedure

The procedure for which directors can be nominated and elected for Red Lake Electric Cooperative is outlined in Article II, Section 10, of the Cooperative's Bylaws. That section reads as follows:

SECTION 10. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS. (a) Nomination at District Meetings. Not less than forty days nor more than sixty days before any meeting at which directors are to be elected, the board of directors shall call a separate meeting of the members of each district from which directors are to be elected, at a suitable place in such district for the purpose of selecting a candidate for director to represent the members located within such district. The notice of such meeting shall be delivered to each member located in such district as provided in Section 2 of this Article and shall indicate the district to which such member belongs. The notice shall state that nominations for a director are to be made at the meeting. The district meeting shall be called to order by the director representing the district or by another designated representative of the board of directors, or in his absence, by any members residing in the district. The members shall then proceed to elect a chairman, who shall be someone other than a director, and who shall appoint a secretary to act for the duration of the meeting. Members of other districts present at the meeting may be heard but shall have no vote. Nominations for candidates for director shall be made from the floor at the meeting, and any member residing in the district shall have the right to nominate one candidate. The meeting shall remain open for nominations until no further nominations are forthcoming.

Candidates must be members residing in the district and must possess the qualifications for director specified in Section 2 of Article III of these bylaws. Voting shall be by ballot and proxy voting shall not be permitted at any district meeting. Each member may vote for one candidate. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared the official candidate of the district. In case of a tie, the winner shall be determined by the flip of a coin. The minutes of the district meeting shall set forth, among other matters, the name of each person nominated at the meeting and the number of votes received by each and shall specify the official candidate of the district. A certified copy of the minutes signed by the Secretary and the Chairman of the district meeting shall be delivered to the secretary of the Cooperative at the following meeting of the board. (b) Nomination of Directors by Petition. Nomination for director can also be made by petition. Fifteen (15) or more members may make a nomination in writing to the Secretary over their signatures not less than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting. This petition nomination must be in the format prescribed by the Secretary. Blank nomination petitions shall be available to all members at the Cooperative office. All petition nominees shall be listed in the notice of annual meeting and their names shall be printed on the election ballot. (c) Election of Directors. At the annual meeting, the Secretary of the Cooperative shall place in nomination the names of the official candidates of each district. Election of directors shall be by printed or mimeographed ballot, separate ballots to be provided for each district, listing the candidates in alphabetical order. Only members of a district shall be entitled to vote for director to be elected from that district, and each member or member's spouse shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from the district, in which he is a member. The candidate from each receiving the highest number of votes at this meeting shall be declared elected as director. In the case of a tie vote, the winner shall be determined by the flip of a coin. Notwithstanding anything contained in this section, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

The Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., of Red Lake Falls, as an operating electric utility in the state of Minnesota, is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers.

The cooperative will provide information relating to the said interconnections to all interested member-consumers of the cooperative free of charge upon request.

Any disputes between the cooperative and its member-consumers over interconnection, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Members that are corporations, churches, townships, schools or other government units may vote at the district meeting. This form designating the voting delegate must be filled out, signed by officers and presented at the district meeting registration desk.

The _____	has, at an official
name of member	
meeting, designated _____	
name of delegate	
to represent us at the 2013 District Meeting of the Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.	
Attest _____	Chairman or President
Attest _____	Clerk or Secretary

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Electrification Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Roger Johanneck, Manager.

Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc. VOLTS & JOLTS

(USPS 663-400)

Published monthly by the Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., 412 International Drive SW, Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750-0430, in the interest of its members and others. Periodical Postage Paid at the U. S. Post Office in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750. POSTMASTER, SEND ADDRESS CHANGES to Volts & Jolts, c/o Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., P. O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750-0430. E-mail: redlake@minnkota.com

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT Bonnie Christians
VICE PRESIDENT Robert Finstad
SECRETARY-TREASURER Mark Hanson
DIRECTORS Kelly Lundeen,
Steven Linder, Peter Mosbeck,
Colette Kujava, Randy Versdahl,
Stacy Blawat
Subscription Rate \$2.50 per year

NOTICE

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of the Volts & Jolts are the names and account numbers of some RLEC members. They will appear within the articles in parenthesis as such (9999999.99 Roger P. Member). If you find your name and account number, clip it out and send it with your next payment. You will be credited with \$5 on your electric bill.

Recipe Corner



Angel Biscuits

- 2 packages (1/4 ounce each) active dry yeast
- 1/4 cup warm water (110° to 115°)
- 2 cups warm buttermilk (110° to 115°)
- 5 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup shortening Melted butter or margarine.

Dissolve yeast in warm water. Let stand 5 minutes. Stir in the buttermilk; set aside. In a large mixing bowl, combine flour, sugar, salt, baking powder and baking soda. Cut in shortening with a pastry blender until mixture resembles coarse meal. Stir in yeast mixture; mix well. Turn onto a lightly floured surface; knead lightly 3-4 times. Roll to a 1/2 in. thickness. Cut with a 2-1/2-in. biscuit cutter. Place on a lightly greased baking sheet. Cover and let rise in a warm place about 1-1/2 hours. Bake at 450° for 8-10 minutes. Lightly brush tops with melted butter. **Yield:** about 2-1/2 dozen

Stove-Top Macaroni and Cheese

- 1 package (7 ounces) elbow macaroni
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Pinch pepper
- 2 cups milk
- 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese
- Paprika, optional

Cook macaroni according to package directions. Meanwhile, in a medium saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Stir in flour, salt and pepper; cook until bubbly. Gradually add milk; cook and stir until thickened. Stir in cheese until melted. Drain macaroni; add to cheese sauce and stir to coat. Sprinkle with paprika if desired. **Yield:** 4-6 servings.

Old-Fashioned Banana Bread Pudding

- Bread Pudding**
- 1/4 c. butter or margarine
- 4 c. cubed 1" stale French or sourdough bread
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 2 c. milk
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 1 c. (2 med.) sliced 1/4" bananas

- Sauce**
- 3 tbsp. butter or margarine
- 2 tbsp. sugar
- 1 tbsp. cornstarch
- 3/4 c. milk
- 1/4 c. light corn syrup
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Heat oven to 375°. In 2-qt. casserole melt 1/4 c. butter in oven (4to6 min.). Stir in bread cubes. In medium bowl slightly beat eggs; stir in remaining pudding ingredients except bananas. Stir in bananas. Pour over bread cubes; stir to coat. Bake for 40 to 50 min. or until knife inserted near center comes out clean. Meanwhile, in 1-qt. saucepan melt 3 tbsp. butter over med. heat. Stir in sugar and cornstarch; add remaining ingredients except vanilla. Continue cooking, stirring occasionally, until sauce comes to a full boil (3 to 4 min.). Boil 1 min. Stir in vanilla. Serve sauce over warm pudding.

Mom’s Meat Loaf

- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup milk
- 2/3 cup finely crushed saltines
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon rubbed sage
- Dash pepper
- 1-1/2 pounds lean ground beef
- 1 cup ketchup
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

In a large bowl, beat eggs. Add milk, cracker crumbs, onion and seasonings. Add beef and mix well. Shape into an 8-1/2-in. x 4-1/2-in. loaf in an ungreased shallow baking pan. Combine remaining ingredients; spread 3/4 cup over meat loaf. Bake at 350° for 60-65 minutes or until no pink remains; drain. Let stand 10 minutes

before slicing. Serve with remaining sauce. **Yield:** 6-8 servings.

Barbecued Pork Sandwiches


- 1 pork shoulder roast (about 5 pounds), trimmed and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 medium onions, coarsely chopped
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1-1/2 cups water
- 1 cup ketchup
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- Hamburger rolls, split

In a Dutch oven, combine meat, onions, chili powder, salt, water, ketchup and vinegar. Cover and simmer for 4 hours or until the meat falls apart easily. Skim off the excess fat. With a slotted spoon, remove meat, reserving cooking liquid. Shred the meat with two forks or a pastry blender. Return to the cooking liquid and heat through. Serve on rolls. **Yield:** 16 servings.

Split Pea Soup

- 1 pound green split peas
- 2 smoked ham hocks (about 1-1/2 pounds)
- 2 celery ribs, finely chopped
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 1 medium carrot, finely chopped
- 2 chicken bouillon cubes
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 8 to 10 cups water
- 1 bay leaf

In a large saucepan, combine all of the ingredients; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; leaving cover ajar, simmer for 3 hours, stirring occasionally. Remove and discard bay leaf. Remove the ham hocks; when cool enough to handle, cut meat into bite-size pieces. Return meat to the soup and heat through. **Yield:** 6-8 servings (2 quarts).



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Sleek new flat-panel TVs can consume almost as much electricity as a refrigerator. In general, the bigger the screen, the more power it draws, and HD pulls more, too. Plasma screens use the most energy, while LCD TVs use much less. And remember to change your new TV's default settings to a power saver mode, and turn down the LCD backlight to save energy without sacrificing picture quality.

Source: Cooperative Research Network

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. Operating Report

MONTHLY COMPARISON

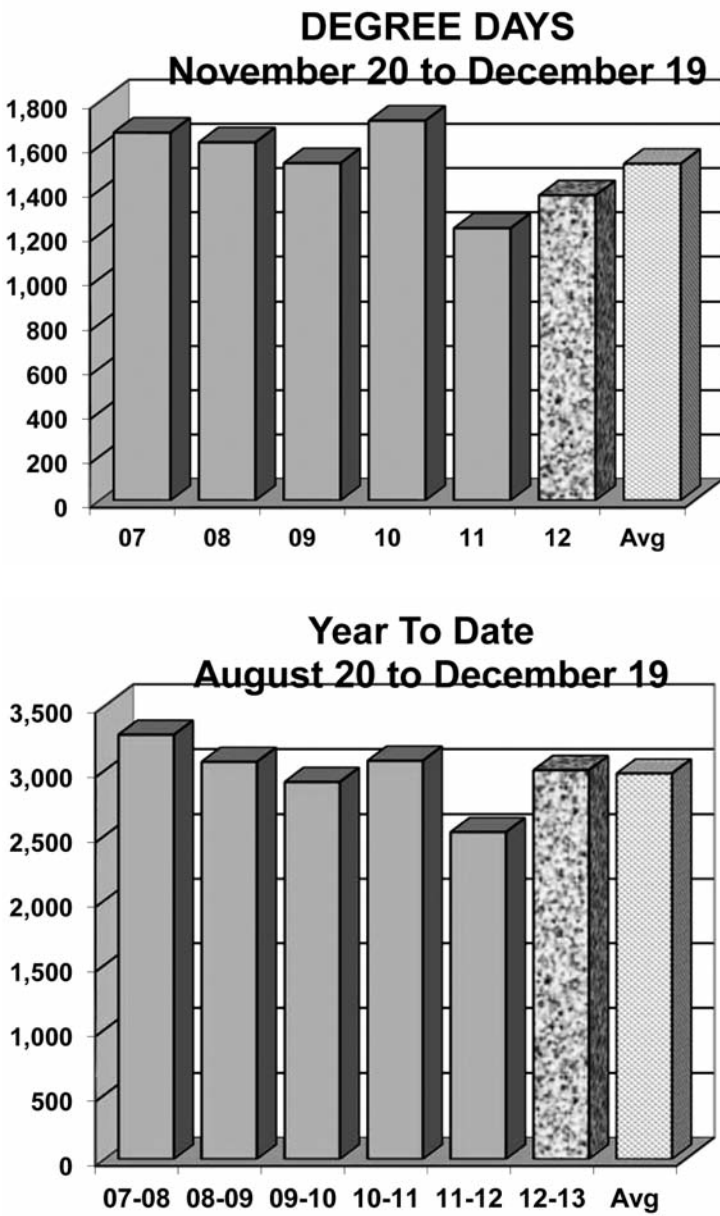
	NOVEMBER 2011	NOVEMBER 2012
Total Revenue	\$1,095,231	\$ 1,129,310
Total Margins	\$ (3,399)	\$ 63,179
Cost of Power	\$ 877,115	\$ 847,133
KWH's Purchased	12,096,679	12,203,205
Capital Credits Paid to Estates ..\$	9,922	\$ 3,484

YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

	NOVEMBER 2011	NOVEMBER 2012
Total Revenue	\$11,501,752	\$11,838,819
Total Margins	\$ 135,210	\$ 653,353
Cost of Power	\$8,646,507	\$ 8,608,224
KWH's Purchased	125,646,350	115,852,220
New Service Connections	62	48
Customers Served	5,213	5,230
Capital Credits Paid to Estates ..\$	80,652	\$ 83,403
Miles of Line		
Overhead	2,324	2,323
Underground	239	249

DEGREE DAYS

To determine degree days, you must calculate the daily mean temperature for the time period you are measuring. Degree day computation is based on the assumption that a building does not require any heat if the outside temperature averages 65 degrees during a 24-hour period. To obtain a degree day figure, the high temperature and the low temperature for the day are added and the total divided by two. That figure is then subtracted from 65. For example, if the high temperature was 30 degrees and the low temperature 10 degrees, the figure would be 30+10=40; 40/2=20; 65-20=45. This would be a 45-degree day. The higher the degree day figure, the more heat required to warm your home.



Prevent Major Headaches for Minor Beneficiaries

By Doreen Friel
If you have assets—such as real estate, life insurance, investments, retirement accounts, and cash—it's important to plan for what will happen to them after you're gone. Whether you're designating a beneficiary for life insurance policies or investments, or choosing the heirs to be named in your will or trust, it's vital to keep one thing in mind: minors generally cannot legally own property.

If your intended heir or beneficiary is a minor—which in most states means under age 18—you need to be cautious. Unless you make special provisions, this decision could create a lot of unnecessary problems and expenses.

For example, if your beneficiary is your 10-year-old son, a court may require that a guardian manage the assets for the child until he reaches adulthood. If you haven't already arranged for this in your will, the court may appoint a financial guardian, or, in some cases, a family member may petition the court to serve in this role. These extra legal steps can be time-consuming and costly for your survivors or estate.

And keep in mind that a court-appointed guardian may not be someone you would choose to control your money. So if you'll be leaving assets to beneficiaries or heirs who are minors, it's worth the investment to make sure your money goes where it should—and that it's handled properly after your passing.

Things to consider when your beneficiaries/heirs are minors

Consider taking the following steps before you list any child as a beneficiary, secondary beneficiary, or heir:

- Establish a will. With the help of an estate planning attorney, consider naming the child as a beneficiary in your will.
- Name a trustee in your will. If your will establishes a trust, you can choose a person to manage the money on behalf of the child until he or she reaches adulthood.
- Create a trust in the child's name. With a trust, you can be more specific about how the money or asset should be used—the trustee is generally obligated to follow your wishes within certain limits—and you can (5509003.01 Veral Mosbeck) determine when, or if, the heir gains full control of it.
- A trust can be more expensive to establish. So consider its value to you. Be sure to work with an estate planning attorney to make sure it is drafted properly.

If you die without having created a will or naming anyone as the beneficiaries of your life insurance policies and retirement plan accounts (and any other assets that are transferred through beneficiary designations), generally speaking, your assets would be distributed in the following order:

1. spouse
2. children
3. parents
4. siblings
5. executors or administrators of your estate

The exact rules that determine how your assets are distributed if you die without a will are based on state law. So make sure you've named the right people—and, most importantly, be sure to review your will, trust documents, and beneficiaries regularly. Don't forget to make appropriate changes as your life changes. If you need assistance, an estate planning attorney can help you take the right steps to make your revisions.

This article offers informational purposes only and is not intended to be tax advice. Consult a tax adviser for information specific to your situation.

2013 F150 4X4 SUPERCAB



Save \$8,275

2013 FORD FIESTA



40 MPG Hwy

MSRP.....	\$37,275
Ford STX Package Discount	-1,500
Ford Retail Cash	-1,000
Ford STX 5.0 Bonus Cash On Us	-1,000
Ford 3 Payments On Us	-1,500
Ford Credit Cash	-1,000
Ford 5.0L Special Cash	-500
TR Ford Discount	-1,776

YOUR PRICE \$28,999

Thief River



EXTENDED SALES HOURS
Mon - Thurs.....8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday.....8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday.....8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

YOUR PRICE \$15,905

Thief River



EXTENDED SALES HOURS
Mon - Thurs.....8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday.....8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday.....8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

MSRP.....\$17,405
Ford 3 Payments On Us -1,000 || Ford Credit Bonus Cash | -500 |

PRE-OWNED INVENTORY!

*96 Jeep Grand Cherokee 4x4 T12093C V6, Cloth.....	\$2,999	*04 GMC Sierra 1500 Ext Cab 4x4 T12237A V8, SLE, Z71, 126k.....	\$12,999
*94 Ford F250 Super Cab 4x2 C13068B Diesel, XLT, Long Box, 234k.....	\$4,999	*09 Honda Fit 5 Dr. Hatchback C12224A Sport Pkg., 4 Cyl, Cloth, 36k.....	\$13,999
*00 Pontiac Grand Am 2 Dr. T12233B V6, SE, Cloth, 139k.....	\$4,999	*08 Ford F150 Super Cab 4x4 T13110A 5.4L, Trailer Tow, 103k.....	\$14,999
*93 Ford Ranger Super Cab 4x4 T12142A 4.0L V6, XLT.....	\$5,999	*10 Ford Fusion SE 4 Door B0943 4 cyl, Moonroof, 25k.....	\$17,499
*02 Pontiac Bonneville SLE B0932A Htd Leather, Moonroof, 141k.....	\$5,999	*10 Mercury Milan Premier S0940 V6, Heated Leather, Moonroof, 31k.....	\$18,999
*04 Chev TrailBlazer 4x4 T13116A LS, Cloth, V6.....	\$6,999	*07 Toyota 4-Runner 4WD C13080A SRS, V6, Cloth, 56k.....	\$19,799
*05 Pontiac Grand Prix 4 Dr. C13005B V6, SE, Cloth, 143k.....	\$7,699	*05 Chev Silverado 1500 Crew 4x4 T13078A Leather, LT, 84k.....	\$19,999
*03 Ford F150 Super Cab 4x4 T12239A V10, Lariat, Leather.....	\$7,999	*09 Ford F150 Super Crew 4x4 T13103A XLT, Chrome Pkg, 86k.....	\$22,999
*01 Ford F350 Crew Cab 4x4 T12239A V10, Lariat, Leather.....	\$8,999	*10 Ford Edge SEL AWD T13105A Heated Leather, 55k.....	\$22,999
*06 Hyundai Electra 4 Dr. T12208B 4 cyl, GLS, Cloth, 60k.....	\$8,999	*10 Ford Edge SEL AWD B0942 Heated Leather, V6, 31k.....	\$24,999
*06 Chev Impala LT 4 Dr. C12203A 3.4L V6, Leather, 117k.....	\$8,999	*12 Ford Escape 4x4 B0941 Limited, Heated Seats, V6, 29k.....	\$24,999
*07 Dodge Grand Caravan SE TB0939A Quad Captains Chairs, 86k.....	\$9,499	*11 Chev Silverado Ext Cab 4x4 T13111A LT, Cloth Seats, Z71, *3" k.....	\$27,999
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VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Got
(quality)
milk?

Cow comfort keeps everyone
happy at Wayra Dairy Farm



Reprinted from the Minnkota Messenger

Dairy farmer Wayne Vettleson knows that if he wants the best milk, he needs happy and healthy cows.

For Vettleson and his wife, Debra, that means furnishing their herd with waterbeds, automatic calf feeders and wide-open barn space.

"It's all for cow comfort," Wayne said. "If we can keep them happy, they'll keep us happy."

The Vettlesons have gone the extra mile in recent years to make the farm, known as Wayra Dairy Farm, a pleasant home for their cows. The results have been hard to ignore. Wayne has seen stronger, healthier cows, better milk quality and improved production.

"Quality is huge in dairy right now," Wayne said, noting that premium prices are paid for high-grade milk. "We want to do anything we can to keep them comfortable and keep them producing the best milk possible."

Wayne started in the dairy business with his father in 1984. He built the first barn on his property in 1989 and has been expanding ever since. The farm was especially busy this past summer as another new barn was constructed. The Vettlesons aren't adding cows; they are giving their herd more room to rest.

Barns, stalls and shops are spread out over the 7-acre lot near Oklee, Minn. The infrastructure is needed to support the farm's 300 dairy cows and 300 youngstock. If someone asks for directions, the Vettlesons simply say, "Just look for black and white."

Or you could look for the bustle of activity at all hours of the day. The Vettlesons, along with six full-time employees and a handful of helpers, milk three times per day starting at 4 a.m. The final shift usually ends around 1 a.m. Then one has the daily milk pickup, inspectors, builders, veterinarians and salesmen who travel down the long gravel road to the farmstead.

Waterbeds for cows?

The top milk producers on the farm are each given their own throne — a waterbed.

The Vettlesons have installed waterbeds in a 70-stall barn reserved for cows that produce about 95 pounds of milk per day. The average cow on the farm yields about 80 pounds daily.

"They're expensive to put in, but the cows really like them," Wayne said.

As the cows lounge on top of the thick, 14-gallon rubber bladder, the bed's surface jiggles with each movement. Each bladder is separated from the others and divided into two sections so that the water can move back and forth. And there's no need to worry about how they perform in a Minnesota winter. The cow's body heat does the job.

The decision to try waterbeds came after the traditional bedding began to wear down too easily. To their knowledge, the Vettlesons are the only dairy farm in the area that uses cow waterbeds.

"I suppose they're kind of

different, but they've worked really well for us," Wayne said. "You'll see very few of these cows in these stalls with swollen knees or bruised hocks."

The waterbeds are cushioned and flexible, moving with the cow's skin, which reduces sores and swelling. The curved shape helps liquids flow away from the cow.

Starting early

The commitment to cow comfort starts with the calves. The farm has an automatic feeder system that recognizes each calf by an electronic chip tagged in its ear. The system will then decide if the calf is entitled to drink and how much.

"Like everything new, there's a bit of a learning curve," said Debra, who takes care of the youngest calves. "But once we figured it out, it made things easier around here."

If the calf is ready to be fed, the system dispenses a mixture of milk powder and hot water. If not, the calf must wait its turn. The system also logs information about each calf's feeding patterns and alerts the Vettlesons to any of their animals that may need extra attention.

The regular, consistent feedings have helped improve the calves' health, Wayne said. More noticeably, it's improved their demeanor.

"Everyone is fed and happy," Wayne said. "That means the system is working well."

Future farms

Wayra Dairy Farm is a top account for Red Lake Electric Cooperative, one of Minnkota's 11 member distribution cooperatives.

But it's also become a rare breed in the area. According to Kevin Reich, Red Lake Electric manager of member services, there were 125 dairy operations in the cooperative's service area in 1998. Today there are 12.

"There are fewer and fewer dairy farms around the area," Wayne said. "I don't see a lot of new people getting into it either."

But that hasn't deterred the Vettlesons. In fact, it's encouraged them to experiment and tinker with new projects.

"I've got a few years until I retire, so I've got to have something to do," Wayne said with a chuckle.

What will happen when the Vettlesons and other dairy farmers in the area retire? Only time will tell.

"I hope we can get people to stick around," Wayne said. "I think the dairies add a lot to the local economy. And there are a lot of advantages to being a dairy farmer in this area."





The farm's automatic feeder decides when and how much each calf should be fed. The system dispenses a milk powder shake and also tracks feeding habits.



The top milk producers at Wayra Dairy Farm rest on top of waterbeds. Using waterbeds has helped improve the cow's health by preventing swollen hocks and sores.



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One of the Minnkota Power Systems

Snow in October lead to armeductor replacement in December

It has been the practice of Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) to eliminate components of the electrical system that are prone to cause power interruptions. We have had programs to replace lightning arrestors on underground lines, to replace aluminum encased deadend insulators that have caused poles to burn and other potential problem causing items have been taken out of service. In the early 1980's, RLEC started a pole testing program that eventually led to the inspection of all the poles in the cooperative's service area. This program remains in effect today. The end result, (673500.01 Wallace L. Nelson)after the bad poles were replaced, was that the number of

outages caused by downed poles was reduced from approximately 150 per year to less than five. More recently we have had a concentrated effort to replace steel and copper conductor referred to as armeductor. Although armeductor has a high breaking strength for its size, the problem is most of the steel is exposed. This leads to a much higher breakage or burn-off when the conductors are slapped together or hit by trees. During the October 4th snow storm, of this past year, we had numerous outages caused by trees and snow with at least 75% of the broken wires being armeductor. When the armeductor lines were originally put in place the average span was over 400'

because of the greater strength of the wire. When it is replaced by ACSR (aluminum conductor, steel reinforced) the average span is shortened to around 300'. Unfortunately in some instances this can be a concern, especially for lines that cross crop fields. Most of the time there is need for one additional pole per quarter mile of run. Some cooperative members have opted to have the line replaced to underground or moved elsewhere for the new ACSR. The cooperative is able to offer a somewhat higher offset to the cost to the member in these situations. Red Lake Electric is always looking and working to provide the best electrical service possi-



In the yard of the Hanson's, the powerline was parallel to a row of spruce trees. Once the wire was dropped the Hanson family began felling the row of spruce trees that were 70+ years of age.



As the Red Lake Electric line crew works to replace the armeductor with ACSR, it requires an additional pole along the Hanson driveway. The ACSR can not be strung in the long spans that the armeductor could.



Red Lake Electric line personnel begin the task of replacing the armeductor wire into the yard of Wallace and Arlene Hanson of Viking. The linemen are dropping the conductor.



Hanson's work to fell the last of over 20 spruce trees along the south side of their driveway. Felling the trees was made easier with no overhead primary wire in place.

Informational Web Sites

The following is a list of Web sites that can provide information and education in reference to electrical safety and energy conservation. These Web sites are listed as links on Red Lake Electric Cooperative's Web site at www.redlakeelectric.com.

- Electrical Safety Foundation International: www.esfi.org
- Alliance to Save Energy: www.ase.org
- US Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov/greenhomes
- Energy Star: www.energystar.gov
- Minnesota Safety Council: www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org
- Safe Electricity: www.safeelectricity.org
- Lighting Controls Association: www.aboutlightingcontrols.org
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Tree removal was made easy with the aid of Hanson's John Deere loader tractor. Having the trees removed will prevent future power outages related to the trees along the drive.



Red Lake Electric line personnel have the new ACSR wire strung and into place and work to restore electrical service into the Hanson farmyard. The Hanson farmstead did remain powered during the line conversion with the aid of their generator.

CGF Project moving along

The Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project, the longest transmission line that begins and ends in the state of North Dakota, is starting to take shape.

The eastern side of the Project saw a lot of construction activity over the summer and

into this fall. On the western side of the Project, there has been staking, tree clearing and fencing work.

During summer, weather was ideal for construction, with few lost days due to rain. Despite some lost days to rain in late fall, more than 32 percent of the

Project's foundations have been installed to date. More than 10 percent of those foundations have structures set on them.

Weather-permitting, construction on the \$312 million, 345-kV line will continue on the eastern side of the Project as we move through the winter

months. At the same time Minnkota is preparing the western portion of the Project for construction next spring.

Offseason construction will occur in some environmentally sensitive areas such as the Missouri River crossing and several United States Fish and

Wildlife Service wetland easements.

Minnkota continues to make safety its No. 1 goal for the crews and people in the areas in which we are working. We have had no serious injuries on the Project to date.

Land rights have been

secured for more than 94 percent of the line's 250-mile length.

Please refer to the Project web site at www.minnkotacgf.com for Project updates.



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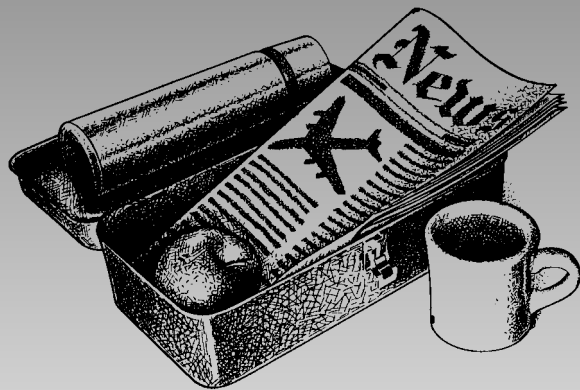
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Preparing for Power Outages from Winter Storms

Winter can be a beautiful time of the year with white snow and sparkling ice, but that same winter weather can also wreak havoc on communities. It can cause roads to be treacherous, schools to be closed, and sometimes your power to go out. Making plans now for a potential power outage can make riding out a prolonged power outage safer and more comfortable.

A good way to help keep your family safe and comfortable during a winter storm is to put an emergency kit together. Safe Electricity offers the following list of items to help you prepare your kit:

- Water – stock up on bottled water for consumption
- Food – have at least enough for 3 to 7 days that includes non-perishable packaged or canned foods, juices, foods for infants or the elderly, and snack foods
- Utensils – include a non-electric can opener, cooking tools, paper plates, and plastic utensils
- Blankets, pillows, and warm clothing items
- First aid kit, medicine, and prescription drugs
- Toiletries, hygiene items, moist tow-

- Flashlight and batteries – be sure to include extra batteries
 - Radio and clock – use battery-operated radios and clocks; also consider purchasing a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio
 - Telephone – keep cell phone chargers (wall, car, and/or solar) on hand and, if you have a landline, a traditional (not cordless) telephone set
 - Emergency numbers – keep a list of emergency telephone numbers, including the local utility company
 - Cash and credit cards
 - Important documents
 - Tools – keep a set in your kit; can include duct tape, screw drivers, pliers, wrench, work gloves, safety goggles, etc.
 - Toys, books, and games
 - Pet-care items
 - Supplies for any alternate heating methods your home may have, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove
- For more information on how to prepare for a winter storm and how to keep your family safe during and after a winter storm, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Coyote outage to impact winter power supply outlook

Minnkota Power Cooperative has informed members of the Joint System that a major outage has occurred at the Coyote Station near Beulah, N.D.

The power plant, which is partially owned by the Northern Municipal Power Agency (NOMA), is an important resource used to meet the needs of the NOMA participants and Minnkota members.

On Nov. 19, the Coyote Station experienced a significant generator failure that forced operators to take it out of service. While it isn't clear exactly what caused the issue, it appears that the repairs will take several months to complete. The generator rotor, the main rotating part, has already been shipped to North Carolina to be fixed.

Minnkota and NOMA see the highest demand for electricity during the winter months. Both utilities are actively pursuing options to replace the 120 megawatts of lost energy by making purchases from a regional power market and through the load management

program. Many members may already have noticed that load management is in use.

The first option during high demand periods is to purchase energy from the market and avoid controlling off-peak loads. However, there are times when affordable power isn't available. By using load management, Minnkota avoids making (7431002.02 Donald Solheim) costly energy purchases that would be passed down to its members.

Each winter season, the Joint System develops a plan for the load management program. But unforeseen events such as the Coyote outage significantly impacts how those plans are carried out and the total number of control hours seen by the end-use consumer.

Minnkota and NOMA will continue to work with Coyote plant operators to ensure a safe and efficient return to service for this key resource in the region's power supply mix.

Are all fires the same?

By Kelly Trapnell

Where there's smoke, there's fire. And while all blazes may look the same, fires should not be treated equally.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, more than 26,000 electrical home fires result in property damage, injuries, and even death every year. Remember this acronym F.I.R.E for electrical safety:

Find the source before it starts

Old or faulty wiring often emerges as the main culprit in causing electrical fires. In electrical fires, heat from wiring or an overloaded system can provide the strike that leads to a fire. But there are often signs before a fire even starts.

Investigate the signs

If you notice flickering lights, recurring trips in a circuit breaker, or a tell-tale sizzling sound around wiring and hot light switches, call a qualified electrician. These may indicate an imminent fire hazard.

Remedy the problem

If you have any signs of a pending fire or have worries about old wiring, contact a professional electrician. Other precautions include:

- Use correct wattage bulbs to prevent overheating fixtures.
- Avoid using damaged cords or running cords under rugs.

Are all fires the same?

- Do not overload outlets or extension cords.
- Do not use appliances in wet areas.
- Routinely check appliances for signs of wear and tear or overheating.

Exit the Building and Learn to Extinguish Properly

If you are faced with an electrical fire, call 911 immediately and have everyone exit the building. If you feel you must face a small fire, know the proper way to approach it.

- Never use water on an electrical fire. Water conducts electricity, so it will not

- smother the fire and may lead to electrocution.
- If the circuit breaker does not trip in the area on fire, shut off the main breaker to the house if possible. Be sure to approach the breaker only if the fire is not nearby and if your hands are dry.
- Never use a Class A extinguisher on an electrical fire. Use a Class C or a multi-purpose ABC model. If there is no extinguisher available or the class of extinguisher is not known, baking soda may help smother the flames.
- Again, if the fire is not quickly extinguished, exit the building.

Even though the source and treatment of fires may differ, they produce the same results. You are no match for the force of a house fire—learn F.I.R.E. and protect yourself.

Sources: U.S. Fire Administration, Electrical Safety Foundation International, National Fire Incident Reporting System

Kelly Trapnell writes on safety and energy efficiency issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

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AUTO PAY SIGN-UP SHEET

I authorize Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) and the bank listed below to initiate variable entries to my checking or savings account. This authorization remains in effect until I notify RLEC in writing to cancel it in such time as to allow RLEC to act on it.

RLEC ELECTRIC ACCOUNT # _____

NAME (PRINT) _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE # _____

NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION _____

CHECKING ACCOUNT # _____

SAVINGS ACCOUNT # _____

SIGN HERE TO AUTHORIZE _____

Please return this authorization form with a blank, voided check to:
Red Lake Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750



Arrive After Five

TREATING PATIENTS OF ALL AGES

After Hours Walk-in Clinic Monday - Thursday | 5 - 7 p.m.

No Appointment Necessary

218.281.9100

400 S. Minnesota Street, Crookston, MN

Elisabeth Ring PA-C
Deb Myrfield PA-C
Mindy Staveteig PA-C
Carrie Clauson PA-C
Mary Lee Beck, NP-C



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Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

Phone 218-253-2168
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After-hour outage 218-253-2200
Office hours Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:30
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