



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
and a portion of the lands of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa

VOL. 50 – NO. 4

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

JANUARY 2015

Member Meetings

Opportunity for information, discussion, fellowship

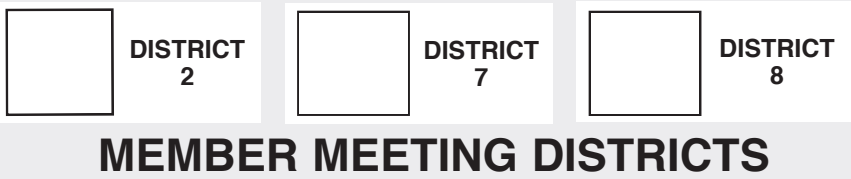
District meetings for the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative will be held at three locations within the Cooperative's service territory. Meetings will be held within Districts 2, 7 and 8.

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.

2015 Member Meeting Schedule

Day	Date	Time	Meeting	Location
Mon., Jan. 26,	7:00 p.m.	District 7	Oak Park Church, Oklee	
Tues., Jan. 27,	1:30 p.m.	District 2	Nazareth Lutheran Church, Holt	
Tues., Jan. 27,	7:00 p.m.	District 8	St. John Lutheran School, Thief River Falls	



New director needed in District 7

Lundeen not seeking re-election

Members in the Oklee and Goodridge area will have a new director representing them on the Board of Directors at Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

Kelly Lundeen, the director serving this area, has been representing District 7 since 1994. Lundeen is completing the term he was re-elected to in 2012 and is not seeking re-election in 2015.

Members of District 7 (Goodridge, Reiner, Kratka, Highland, Star, Wyandotte, Mayfield and Deerpark Townships) will elect a director candidate at their district meeting to be held at Oak Park Church Jan. 26.

The candidate receiving the most votes at their respective district meeting will be placed on the ballot for election at the Cooperative's annual meeting March 25.

Members can also be placed on the annual meeting ballot by petition. At least 15 members of the respective district must sign a nomination petition and return it by February 23 to be placed on the annual meeting ballot. Nomination petition forms are available by calling or visiting the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls.

Members considering run-



Kelly Lundeen

ning for the position of director should note the article located elsewhere in this issue that defines qualifications for being a director.

If you have additional ques-

tions on director responsibilities or meeting schedules, contact Lundeen in District 7 at 218-796-5657 or Roger Johanneck, general manager, at 1-800-245-6068.

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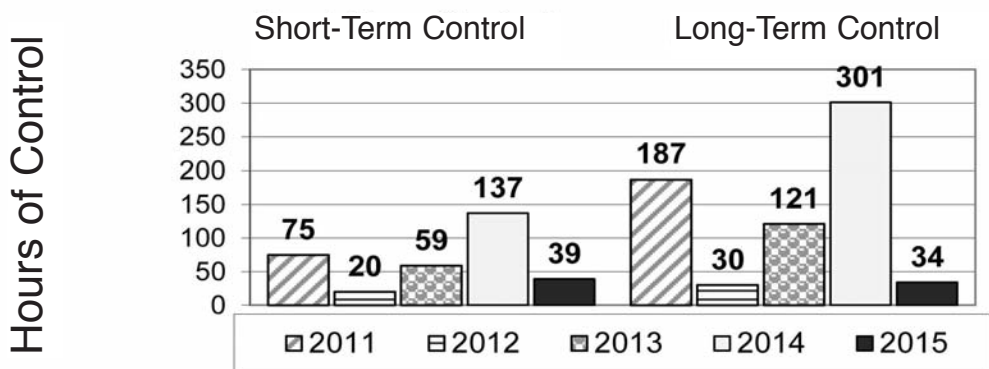
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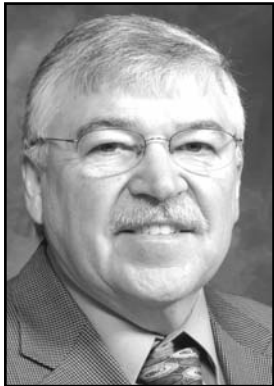
QUICK TAKES

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. Energy sales, service interruptions and Off-peak control hours are all good examples and reminders of how your Red Lake Electric Cooperative business is impacted by the weather.

OFF-PEAK CONTROL HOURS through January 12th





Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



Board approves \$300,000 rebate to the membership

Your Cooperative's board of directors approved a rebate to the membership of \$300,000 at their December board meeting, which was credited on the energy bill you received earlier this month. The rebate was made possible because revenue through the first 11 months of the year was more than was budgeted or needed to meet the Cooperatives financial obligations, therefore members were given some money back.

Those of you who keep track of such stuff recall that your electric Cooperative gave a rebate at this time last year, too. One question members might have is why are we receiving these recent rebates? Why don't we just lower our rates in the first place and skip the rebates?

If I had a crystal ball to see into the future, we would do that. However I don't have a crystal ball to help with the budget process. Rates are set to cover what we think is a normal year of sales (revenue) and expenses. While expenses were about what we had projected; higher kWh sales boosted revenue beyond more than we budgeted or needed for the year.

The rebate is based on your metered kilowatt hours from January through November billings of 2014. A colder winter required more energy to heat our homes. Harvest conditions and new service construction also contributed to an increase in energy use by the membership.

Fixed charges, like facilities charges and demand charges, were not more than expected so

that revenue to the Cooperative is not part of the rebate calculation. The \$300,000 rebate calculates out to \$.0024 or 2.4 mills per kWh.

Obviously, I am grateful that your Cooperative had a good year financially and that we are in a position where we can give members a refund on their electric bills from 2014. I am also pleased that your board of directors approved the rebate.

Consideration was given to deferring a portion of the revenue to be used in future years' operations. While that is an acceptable accounting practice, your board's decision to give the money back now exemplifies the accountability they have to today's members that made it possible.

Here's a few parting thoughts that come to mind about this rebate:

1) Qualifying for this rebate is about as simple as it gets; unlike most other rebates, you don't need to fill out any forms, clip out any bar codes, or mail us copies of 12 monthly bills proving how much energy you purchased from Red Lake Electric in 2014.

2) Looking on the bright side of the things, the cold winter of 2014 was good for more than getting rid of mosquitoes for a few months; it had a positive effect on the Cooperatives operations.

3) This rebate is one of the ways you benefit from holding membership in Red Lake Electric. Your support of the Cooperative by using electric energy helped make this rebate

possible. When Red Lake Electric does good, you (the owners) benefit.

"You don't buy membership in an organization."

I was digging through some stuff in my desk the other day and found a clipping of paper with the following bit of wisdom typed on it. I don't recall why I saved it but I will share it here. I think it sums up nicely why Cooperatives, like Red Lake Electric, are formed and successful.

You don't buy a newspaper...you buy news.

You don't buy life insurance...you buy security.

You don't buy glasses...you buy better vision.

You don't buy awnings...you buy shade.

You don't buy membership in an organization...you buy cooperation of people in the profession with whom you can join hands to do the things you cannot do alone.

Membership Meetings:

It is that time of year again, when the Cooperative holds its District-membership meetings. I encourage you to check out the meeting schedule, included in this month's issue of *Volts and Jolts*, and welcome members 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.



Line Service Department

by Bob Guillemette

Saying goodbye this year

As the end of the month draws near, I am reminded of the day when I was hired full time at Red Lake Electric, Feb. 1, 1974, some 41 one years ago.

At first I worked with Ron Kees on the appliance truck, and then moved to the line department where you had to work as groundman for one year before you could go on to apprentice lineman.

The next year Dick Gervais, Doug Hagl and myself were given the opportunity to become linemen after a four-year apprenticeship. We worked under the old linemen who were all World War II veterans who taught us line work and how to be safe. Several others were hired in the same manner and the coop was very busy in the next 10 years.

There were plenty of outages during those years, but we were fortunate enough to be located in an area not frequented by ice storms in the winter or tornadoes in the summer. When the

construction season slowed down the people in charge of the co-op had the foresight to inspect all of the poles and replace the bad ones. This made for a very robust system that was able to endure the normal summer and winter storms without too much damage and extended outages.

On Jan. 1, 1985 I had the good fortune of becoming Line Superintendent. I didn't know all that I was in for but Harry Ford, who was the Line Foreman at the time, told me: "You better buy a big bottle of aspirin cause you're gonna have a lot of headaches."

Well, (4528002.03, Faye Auchenpaugh) the job does have a lot of challenges and constant changes and sometimes it can give you headaches. But it seems that when things were at their worst, everyone pitched in to accomplish what needed to be done. Having worked at several other jobs before coming to the co-op, I always felt that we had

the highest quality of people who were dedicated to the job. I found the members of Red Lake Electric to be kind, caring, gracious and willing to work with us to try to make our system the best that it can be.

March 31 will be my official last day at Red Lake Electric, although I have some vacation plans to leave earlier. Steve Conely will be taking over as the head of the line department and I know he will do a good job. We have a few veterans left in the department and several young linemen and apprentices.

The office staff is fairly new as well, but they are all hard working employees that will do their best to keep the lights on for you. I miss working with the other employees that have retired over the years and I will miss the ones that are working here now. And last, but not least, I will miss meeting with and working with the members of the co-op.

Annual Meeting March 25

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 25, at the Ralph Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls.

Red Lake Electric Annual Meeting

MARCH 25

Director elections to be held

Red Lake Electric Cooperative members in District 2, 7 and 8 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 26 if there is more than one nominee.

Districts 2, 7 and 8 are currently represented by Stacy Blawat, Kelly Lundeen and Robert Finstad, 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.

VOTING DELEGATE CERTIFICATION

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 2015 District Meeting of the Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Attest _____
Chairman or President

Attest _____
Clerk or Secretary

Mission Statement

It is the mission of Red Lake Electric Cooperative to enhance the quality of life for people of our service area by consistently providing quality electric service and other valued services while holding our employees, our community and our environment in high regard.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

AFTER-HOURS
OUTAGE PHONE
218-253-2200

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.

Recipe Corner



Chicken on Sunday

1 box minute rice
1 can cream of mushroom soup
1 can cream of chicken soup
1 can celery soup
1 can milk
1 envelope onion soup
1 frying chicken, cut up

Grease cake pan with butter. Cover bottom of pan with uncooked rice. Heat the three soups with milk and add onion soup. Pour over rice. Arrange chicken on top with skin side up. *Important:* Cover tight with cover or tin foil. Bake at 350° for two hours.

Banana Nut Bread

1 3/4 cups flour
3/4 tsp. soda
1 1/4 tsp. cream of tartar
1/2 tsp. salt
1/3 cup shortening
2/3 cup sugar
2 eggs, well beaten
1 cup mashed bananas
Nuts

Sift first four ingredients. Mix shortening and sugar. Add eggs. Alternate mashed bananas with flour mixture. Add nuts. Bake about one hour at 350°.

Lasagna Spinach Roll-ups

12 lasagna noodles
1 qt. spaghetti sauce
2 pkg. chopped spinach
1 carton Ricotta cheese
8 oz. Mozzarella cheese, shredded
2 eggs
4 Tbsp. Romano cheese
Salt
Pepper
1/8 tsp. nutmeg

Cook noodles and drain. Combine next eight ingredients, spread 1/3 cup on each noodle and roll up. Alternate sauce and noodles in a 13 x 9 x 2-inch baking dish. Sprinkle more Romano cheese on top. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes

Crockpot Beef Stew

2 lbs. stew meat
3 Tbsp. minute tapioca
2 cups cubed potatoes
1 Tbsp. sugar
2 cups diced celery
1 tsp. salt
2 cups cubed carrots
1/4 tsp. pepper
2 med. chopped onions
1 can stewed tomatoes

Brown meat first and then put all ingredients into slow cooker and cook 7-8 hours on low or 4-5 hours on high.

Overnight Coffee Cake

3/4 cup white sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar
2/3 cup margarine
2 eggs
2 cups flour
1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. soda
1-1/4 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. baking powder
1 cup buttermilk

Topping:

1/4 cup brown sugar
3/4 tsp. cinnamon
3/4 cup chopped nuts
1/4 tsp. nutmeg
1 cup chopped dates

Pan Size: 9 x 13 inch
Oven Temp.: 350°
Bake time: 25 to 30 minutes

Cream shortening and sugar. Add eggs and beat. Sift dry ingredients and add alternately with buttermilk. Pour into greased pan.

Topping: Mix together brown sugar, cinnamon, nuts, nutmeg and dates. Sprinkle on top of batter. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Uncover. Bake. When cool drizzle with powdered sugar frosting.

Help your child enjoy reading aloud:

Tips for parents

Your children will learn reading skills in school, but often they come to associate reading with work, not fun. The best thing parents can do to encourage children to love books and reading is to read aloud to them. And don't stop reading aloud to them once they have learned to read for themselves.

- Read to your child every day-even if only for a few minutes. It is your time together.
- Reading should be fun. You don't have to finish a story if your child loses interest.
- Let your child choose the book even if it means reading the same book over and over.
- Invite your child to "read" to you from a familiar book that he has memorized from having heard it so often read to him.
- Stop and ask about the illustrations or what your child thinks will happen next. The answers may amaze you.
- Read from a variety of children's books, including fairy tales, poetry and nursery rhymes.
- Follow your child's interests in choosing the books. There are many great books on non-fiction subjects, such as the ocean or dogs.
- Join your local library!

Source: heathlychildren.org

From the Mail Bag

Dear RLEC,

Thank you very much for the \$100 energy credit I received in December. It is greatly appreciated.

Alan Mattison
Thief River Falls

Dear RLEC,

This is a note of thanks for helping us out with our electrical plenum heater here in rural Crookston this month.

Your genuine concern and professional interest, plus volunteering beyond what we expected, was truly outstanding!

Bud Ellingson
Crookston

Tamper resistant receptacles

Prevent Shocks and Burns

Each year, approximately 2,400 children suffer severe shock and burns when they stick items into the slots of electrical receptacles - that is nearly seven children a day. It is estimated that there are six to 12 fatalities a year related to this. Nearly one-third of these injuries are the result of small children placing ordinary household objects, such as keys, pins, or paperclips into the outlets with disastrous consequences.

Located in practically every room in every house throughout the United States, electrical outlets and receptacles represent a constant and real danger wherever young children are found.

But now, new technology called tamper resistant receptacles, or TRRs, provide a simple, affordable, reliable and permanent solution to help prevent these kinds of injuries.

Automatic Protection

TRRs look just like ordinary outlets, (717002.01, Daniel Caillier) but are designed with spring-loaded receptacle cover plates that close off the receptacle openings, or slots.

When equal pressure is simultaneously applied to both sides, the receptacle cover plates open to allow the standard plug to make contact with the receptacle contact points. Without this simultaneous pressure, the cover plates

remain closed, preventing insertion of foreign objects and protecting your children from painful, traumatic electrical injuries.

Although not widely used in homes until recently, TRRs have been required in hospital pediatric care facilities for more than 20 years. In fact, TRRs have proven to be so effective that the National Electrical Code (NEC) now requires them to be installed in all new home construction. Existing homes can be easily retrofitted with TRRs using the same installation guidelines that apply to standard receptacles. TRRs should only be installed by a licensed electrician.

Though some special interest groups have voiced objections to the NEC revision because of concerns about the added costs, these specialized outlets cost about 50 cents more than a traditional receptacle.

In a newly constructed home, TRRs would add as little as \$50 to the total cost of the home. In existing homes, standard electrical receptacles can be replaced with TRRs for as little as \$2 per outlet - a small price to pay to ensure that your children are protected against electrical shocks and burns from electrical outlets.

Source: *Electrical Safety Foundation International*

Know the difference between electrical fact and myth

We live in a world where we rely on electricity every day. From the power lines along the road to the outlets in homes, danger could potentially be lurking around every corner if you do not know the facts about electricity. What some may think to be common knowledge may actually be myth. Make sure you know the difference. It might save your life one day.

Here are some common electrical myths proven false:

Myth: Once a line is down, it is dead.

Fact: The electric current does not always turn off when a power line is down. Even if lines do not show signs of life (arcing, smoking, popping), they can still hold dangerous electrical current. Always treat a downed wire as energized because there is no way for you to know by looking whether it is hot or not. Just always stay away, and keep others away.

Myth: All power lines are insulated.

Fact: Most power lines are actually not insulated. The coating on the lines is actually for weather proofing and will not offer any protection from the electrical current. Even if a power line is insulated, it can crack due to weather reducing its safety. No matter the case, it is never safe to touch a power line.

Myth: There is no need to worry about power lines when digging a hole.

Fact: Always call 811 before you dig to have a professional come to your home and locate buried public utility lines free of charge. No matter the size of a digging project, if you come into contact with a buried power line, you could be electrocuted or seriously injured.

Myth: Household electrical currents are not powerful enough to cause death.

Fact: Household current can kill. At 10 years of age, Caitlyn MacKenzie touched a lamp while still damp from swimming and was electrocuted.

ed by a household current. Make sure outlets, especially in the kitchen, bathroom, garage and outdoors, are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). This type of outlet provides protection from electrical shock.

Myth: It is safe to work around a power line at home as long as direct contact is not made.

Fact: Always keep yourself (2830002.03, Ken R. Fredrickson) and equipment at least 10 feet from power lines. This goes for ladders, pool skimmers, pruning poles, and any other equipment. Always be aware of where power lines are so you do not risk electric shock. If you are trimming trees or attempting any do-it-yourself project near power lines, always call professionals for the job.

Myth: It is safe to remove the third prong from a plug.

Fact: The third prong is a safety feature designed to reduce the risk of shock or electrocution. That prong grounds the electrical current. If the outlet is only fit for a two prong plug, replace the outlet with a three prong or a GFCI outlet.

Myth: Rubber gloves and rubber soled shoes insulate electric currents.

Fact: Although it is true that

items made from 100 percent rubber insulate electricity, many household rubber items, such as rubber gloves, are not made of pure rubber. Oftentimes, these items are manufactured with additives to make these products more durable. Consequently, this makes these items act as conductors instead of insulators.

Myth: Tires insulate my car from electrical dangers.

Fact: If a wire falls on your car while you are in it, the tires do not keep you from being injured by the electricity. The vehicle is the path to ground for the electrical current, so while you remain in the car, you are safe. The moment you step out of the car, you are the path to ground and in danger. If you find yourself in a situation where your car has hit a utility pole or power lines have fallen, stay in the car and warn others to stay away. Wait for a utility crew to cut the power. Only exit the car if it is on fire. Make sure to not touch the ground and the car at the same time. Jump from the car, keeping your feet together, and hop away from the scene.

When it comes to electricity, you have to know the facts. To learn the facts about electrical safety and to see other stories similar to Caitlyn MacKenzie's, go to SafeElectricity.org.

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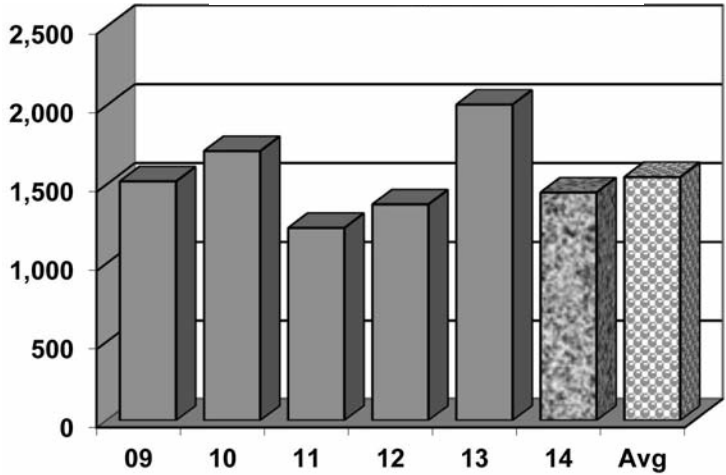
Red Lake Falls
218-253-4347

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.		
Operating Report		
MONTHLY COMPARISON		
	NOVEMBER 2013	NOVEMBER 2014
Total Revenue	\$1,243,629	\$ 1,391,907
Total Margins	\$ 137,657	\$ 164,385
Cost of Power	\$ 901,844	\$ 999,046
KWH's Purchased.....	\$13,749,127	\$ 14,933,048
Capital Credits Paid to Estates ..\$	3,225	\$ 2,120
Average outage time in minutes per member	1	1
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON		
	NOVEMBER 2013	NOVEMBER 2014
Total Revenue	\$12,400,615	\$13,159,596
Total Margins	\$1,141,088	\$ 1,017,681
Cost of Power	\$8,678,856	\$ 9,443,626
KWH's Purchased	121,031,697	132,032,864
New Service Connections	54	68
Customers Served.....	5,268	5,318
Capital Credits Paid to Estates ..\$	96,714	\$ 64,433
Average outage time in minutes per member	133	175
Miles of Line		
Overhead.....	2,324	2,323
Underground	256	264

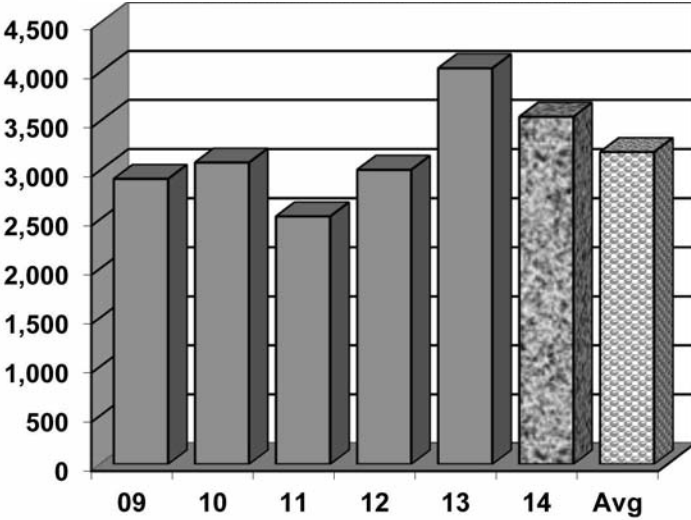
DEGREE DAYS

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.

DEGREE DAYS December, 2014



Year To Date September 1 to December 31



Farmers Union Oil Company

Thief River Falls 218-681-3512



- Fertilizer
- Petroleum products
- Town and country deliveries
- Tires, batteries, accessories
- Farm supplies

WILCOX PLUMBING AND HEATING, Inc.

RED LAKE FALLS

Plumbing/Heating/Air conditioning

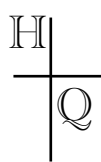
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License No. 6039PM
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VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

A family business

By Evelyn Glass

The history of the former Falls Theater goes back many decades to when it was located downtown on LaBree Avenue in Thief River Falls.

When it closed, a drive-in opened on South 59 operating as Galaxy Theater. When that went out of business the present theater was built. Four years ago, Jeff Lund and his wife purchased the building and business.

The past four years have brought many changes for Falls Cinema. Located south of Thief River Falls on Highway 59, the theater welcomes its patrons who enjoy seeing family movies.

Entering the lobby/concessions area, theater-goers are welcomed by a bright attractively decorated lobby. The knotty pine paneling accented by a brick front on the counter is adorned with reels that formerly were used to hold the films. In one corner the old projector is on display for visitors to see. Popcorn tubs are prominently displayed and create the traditional mood of popcorn and movies.

Jeff Lund is proud of his family's involvement in the operation. All of the family members have second jobs. His wife, Stacy, is employed at the Cenex A&W. Son, Daniel, is the manager and is married to Marissa. Daniel's second job is with Sjoberg's Cable TV.

Daughter, Brittany, is married and lives in Fargo, while

their youngest daughter, Jessica is employed by Digi-Key.

Ten people are employed in addition to the family members. Brianna Ortloff is Assistant Manager and the other nine are involved in ticket sales and operating the concessions stand, etc. Popcorn, sodas, cotton candy and other confections are available. On Wednesday evenings free popcorn is available when you bring your own bowl.

The theater is open and shows movies every day of the year except for Dec. 24 when it is closed. Currently there are two theaters; one features seating for 216 and the other boasts 180 seats. The comfortable chairs and large screen create an ideal viewing area.

Switching to digital equipment was a costly process for the theater, which rang up \$125,000 in total. Community members graciously contributed \$60,000 to help with the project and ensure they would continue to have a theater in their city.

All movies shown are screened by a broker in Minneapolis. He chooses movies that he believes will satisfy the local audience. Direction is given by the broker as to how long the movies will run and also in what sequence. New releases are shown as they become available.

Some movies run for one week, others for two. Children's movies run for three weeks. The movies arrive on a hard drive and are released by the broker at the scheduled time of showing.

In 2013, Jeff did extensive remodeling and purchased new equipment. This year a new off-peak electric heat system, consisting of two electric furnaces with propane back-ups, was installed. Future plans call for enlarging by adding four more theaters and projectors to serve theatergoers.

Show times are every evening at 7 p.m. Monday-Friday, with free popcorn on Wednesday evening. There is also an additional showing at 9:30 on Friday evenings.

Saturday show times are at 1, 4, 7 and 9:30 p.m. Sunday showings are at 1, 4 and 7 p.m. Tickets prices are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children and senior citizens.

The young women on duty the evening we were there to interview Jeff and his crew were happy and cheerful. Many applicants approach Ortloff seeking employment because they have heard it is a good place to work.

Falls Cinema is a satisfied member of Red Lake Electric Cooperative. For more information about Falls Cinema see their website: Falls-Cinema.com



Falls Cinema is located south of Thief River Falls on Highway 59.



Ten people are employed by Falls Cinema in addition to several family members of owner Jeff Lund. Some of them are, from left, Hailey Olson, Assistant Manager Brianna Ortloff, Lund and Savannah Housey.



The smaller theater of the two at Falls Cinema features 180 seats.



Falls Cinema features a welcoming lobby and concession area. Every Wednesday is free popcorn night when you BYOB (bring your own bowl).

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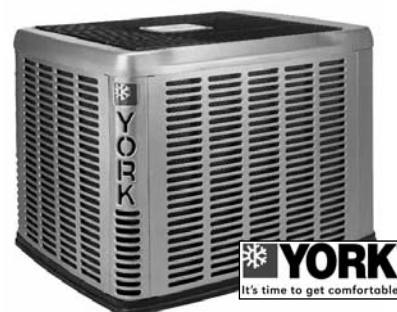
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Appropriate decor is located in the corner of Falls Cinema's lobby and concession area, including the old projector that was removed in 2013.



Updating to digital equipment, two new projectors and a new sound system was a large expense for Falls Cinema. The support from community contributions was very much appreciated by the Lund family, who own and operate the theater.

Energy Education Council shares efficiency tips for 2015

Saving money is a popular New Year's resolution. The Energy Education Council has tips to help consumers save money in 2015 by cutting energy use and costs.

"We want consumers to understand their energy bills and know how they can cut costs," says Molly Hall, executive director of the Energy Education Council.

The Energy Education Council shared the following tips, organized by how much certain costs contribute to a home's energy bill:

·According to energy.gov, heating and cooling typically account for about 48 percent of a home utility bill. Since heating/cooling is such a big cost, it is a good place to begin saving strategies. Start by regularly cleaning or replacing filters.

During winter, dress warmly and keep the temperature in the home moderate. In the

summer, wear light clothing and use fans to keep cool instead of running the air conditioning. Consumers can save money any season by closing off rooms that do not need to be heated or cooled.

·Water heating, at 18 percent (energy.gov), is next. Warm water is needed throughout the day to shower, cook and clean. However, it is not needed every moment of the day. Yet, many people's water heaters (3836010.05, John and Jody Holand) work hard to keep water warm constantly. Give the water heater a break by setting its temperature to 120 degrees.

·Appliances – Do laundry in cold water, when possible. Run the dishwasher when there is a full load. Also consider air drying dishes and line drying clothes as often as possible. Check the seals on refrigerators and freezers to make sure they are airtight. When shopping for new appliances, look for the Energy Star label. Energy Star products use less energy than other products.

·Electronics and other devices – Look for the Energy Star label when purchasing new electronics as well. Even if not replacing electronics, money can be saved by unplugging products that are not in use.

·Lighting – Lighting is one of the easiest ways to increase a home's efficiency. Switch to Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) bulbs or Light Emitting Diode (LED) light bulbs. Both types use significantly less energy than traditional incandescent light bulbs. CFLs and LEDs also last longer than incandescent lighting, so they will not have to be replaced as often.

For more tips on how to use energy efficiently and safely, visit EnergyEdCouncil.org.



Residential Prescriptive Program
This program is designed to provide end-use consumers with a quick and easy way to choose high-efficiency equipment at the time of normal equipment replacement or major renovations. Some of these technologies include:

Lighting (Must be ENERGY STAR® or DesignLights Consortium™ approved.)		
ENERGY STAR CFL Lamps		\$2/bulb Max. 12 per customer
ENERGY STAR LED Screw-In Bulb	In place of 40-60W incandescent.	\$4/bulb
ENERGY STAR LED Screw-In Bulb	In place of 65W or greater incandescent.	\$8/bulb
Maximum of 12 per customer for LED screw-in bulbs.		
ENERGY STAR LED Recessed Downlights	Complete fixtures or replacements kits.	\$8/unit
LED Outdoor Fixtures	LED fixture Wattage of <40 Watts. Must operate on a photocell and be DesignLights Consortium approved.	\$40/fixture
LED Outdoor Fixtures	LED fixture Wattage of >40 Watts. Must operate on a photocell and be DesignLights Consortium approved.	\$80/fixture

Appliances (Must be ENERGY STAR approved.)		
ENERGY STAR Refrigerator		\$25/unit
ENERGY STAR Refrigerator (with recycling of old refrigerator)		\$50/unit
ENERGY STAR Freezer		\$25/unit
ENERGY STAR Freezer (with recycling of old freezer)		\$50/unit
ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer		\$50/unit
ENERGY STAR Clothes Dryer		\$50/unit
Electric Water Heater	Minimum 80-gallon total capacity, EF ≥0.91. Must be controlled under the utility's load management program.	\$150/unit
Engine Block Heater Timer		\$10/unit
Heating, Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC) Measures		
Tune-Up for Residential Central A/C	Not valid on window units	\$25/unit
Tune-Up for Residential Air-Source Heat Pumps (ASHP)	Excludes mini-split ductless ASHPs	\$25/unit
ASHP	ENERGY STAR or 14.0 SEER / 8.2 HSPF	\$400/unit
Supplemental Heating Source for ASHP	Must modulate to allow ENERGY STAR-rated ASHP to operate down to 5°F, and be on load control	\$500/unit
Furnace (Air Handler) with ECM Blower	Furnace with ECM blower	\$150/unit
Mini-Split/Ductless ASHP	15 SEER	\$500/unit
Programmable Thermostat		\$25/unit

Geothermal Measures		
Ground-Source Heat Pump Open Loop <135,000 BTU/H @ 59°F	16.2 EER / 3.6 COP	\$200/ton Max. incentive \$2,500/home
Ground-Source Heat Pump Closed Loop <135,000 BTU/H @ 77°F	14.1 EER / 3.3 COP	\$400/ton Max. incentive \$2,000/home
New installations only. Must be installed by a qualified, insured contractor. Must be the primary heating source for the home and be on a list of prequalified units. Water-to-water systems need the manufacturer's specifications indicating the equipment meets incentive requirements.		
Replacement Geothermal		
Ground-Source Heat Pump Open Loop <135,000 BTU/H @ 59°F	16.2 EER / 3.6 COP	\$100/ton Max. incentive \$1,250/home
Ground-Source Heat Pump Closed Loop <135,000 BTU/H @ 77°F	14.1 EER / 3.3 COP	\$200/ton Max. incentive \$2,500/home
Incentive available for failed geothermal equipment only. Entire indoor unit replacement is required to receive incentive. Replacing only the compressor will not qualify for the incentive. Equipment being replaced must fall outside of any warranty period to receive incentive. Invoice showing proof of purchase must be attached.		

Home fire escape plan

Fire is one of the most common disasters and one of the deadliest. However, with proper planning, it does not need to be. By creating a comprehensive fire emergency plan, you and your family can greatly reduce your chances of being injured in a fire.

Fireproof your home

Use smoke detectors

Smoke detectors should be installed on every level of your home as well as in the basement. Place one smoke detector outside each sleeping area in your home.

Keep smoke detectors away from cooking vapors to prevent false or nuisance alarms. Proper placement is on the

ceiling. However, if a wall must be used, install the detector(s) at a minimum distance of 4" and a maximum distance of 12" from the ceiling.

Be sure that any unit you purchase is UL listed. Smoke detectors should be routinely replaced every 10 years.

Test your smoke detectors

Test each smoke detector in your home at least monthly by pushing the test button. Replace the batteries twice a year.

Have a properly operating fire extinguisher in the kitchen

Regularly check the fire extinguisher to ensure that it is properly charged. Use the test button or gauge to check prop-

Continued on page 6

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Lighting – Retrofit <i>(Unless noted, must be used for lighting with a minimum of 1,800 hours of operation per year)</i>		
Compact Fluorescent Fixtures and Lamps (CFL)		
ENERGY STAR® CFL Screw-In Lamps	\$2/unit Must be ENERGY STAR approved.	Incentive per screw-in self-ballasted lamp.
ENERGY STAR CFL Reflector Flood	\$4/unit Must be ENERGY STAR approved.	
T8 Fluorescent Lamps with Electronic Ballasts <i>(Standard Non-CEE qualified)</i>		
T8 4ft. Fixture		
1-lamp	\$5/fixture	Replace incandescent or T12 systems with T8 systems. Replacement must result in energy savings to qualify. Replacement fixtures or lamp and ballast retrofits are eligible.
2-lamp	\$6/fixture	
3-lamp	\$11/fixture	
4-lamp	\$13/fixture	
Lighting – Retrofit <i>(Unless noted, must be used for lighting with a minimum of 1,800 hours of operation per year)</i>		
T8 Fluorescent Lamps with Electronic Ballasts <i>(Standard Non-CEE qualified)</i>		
T8 8ft. Fixture		
1-lamp	\$7/fixture	Retrofits of T12 8' 2-lamp fixtures with four T8 4' lamps placed end to end should be considered a T8 4' 4-lamp retrofit at \$13.
2-lamp	\$9/fixture	
T8 4ft. Lamps and Ballast with Reflectors <i>(Permanent removal of existing ballasts and unused lamp sockets required)</i>		
2-lamp Replacing T12 4ft. 4-lamp	\$25/fixture	Replace or retrofit T12 systems with a T8 system using 4' lamps. New fixtures or retrofit kits must be used. Design must meet maintained Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) recommended light levels for the area.
2-lamp Replacing T12 8ft. 2-lamp	\$18/fixture	
3-lamp Replacing T12 4ft. 4-lamp	\$18/fixture	
T8 Fluorescent Lamps Only - Reduced Wattage <i>(CEE qualified)</i>		
4ft. 28W or less 8ft. 54W or less	\$1/lamp	Replace existing 32W 4' or 59W 8' T8 lamps with low watt T8 lamps.

T8 Fluorescent Systems - Reduced Wattage (CEE qualified)		
T8 4ft. Reduced Wattage System		
1-lamp	\$7/fixture	Replace incandescent or T12 systems with 28 and 25 watt CEE qualified Reduced Wattage T8 Systems. Lamps and ballasts used must meet the CEE specifications for Reduced Wattage T8 Systems.
2-lamp	\$9/fixture	
3-lamp	\$14/fixture	
4-lamp	\$18/fixture	
Replacement fixtures or lamp and ballast retrofits are eligible.		
See "Commercial Lighting" at www.cee.org for approved lamp and ballast list. However if the ballast has a NEMA premium label, it automatically qualifies.		
T8 Fluorescent Systems – High Performance (CEE qualified)		
T8 4ft. High Performance		
1-lamp	\$6/fixture	Replace incandescent, T12 Systems, or specified standard T8 Systems with CEE qualified High Performance (super) T8 Systems. Lamps and ballasts used must meet the CEE specifications for High Performance T8 Systems. Replacement fixtures or lamp and ballast retrofits are eligible.
2-lamp	\$7/fixture	
3-lamp	\$12/fixture	
4-lamp	\$14/fixture	
T8 Fluorescent Systems – 4ft. High Performance (Replacing specific fixtures)		
T8 4ft. High Performance		
2-lamp	\$20/fixture	Replacing T12HO 8' one lamp fixture – one for one replacement only.
4-lamp	\$30/fixture	Replacing T12HO 8' two lamp fixtures – one for one replacement only.
High Performance (super) T8 systems require manufacturer and model number for ballast and lamps used. Both ballast and lamp must be from CEE approved list to qualify. See approved list at www.cee.org , under "Commercial Lighting." However if the ballast has a NEMA premium label, it automatically qualifies.		
T8 Fluorescent Fixtures – High Bay (Retrofit)		
One for one replacement only. Only when replacing specific wattage HID (metal halide, mercury vapor and high pressure sodium) or incandescent fixtures.		
T8 High-Bay Fixtures 4ft. Lamps		
3-lamp	\$20/fixture	Replacing 150 Watt or larger
4-lamp	\$25/fixture	Replacing 250 Watt or larger
6-lamp	\$50/fixture	Replacing 400 Watt to 749 Watt
8-lamp	\$70/fixture	Replacing 750 Watt or larger

High-Bay Occupancy Sensor Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is an additional incentive to add occupancy sensors to control the high-bay fluorescent fixtures listed above.• Programmed start ballasts are highly recommended for controlled fixtures.• High bay occupancy sensor incentives may not be combined with any other occupancy sensor incentive.	\$10 per controlled fixture
T5HO Fluorescent High-Bay Fixtures – Retrofit <i>One for one replacement only. Only when replacing specific wattage HID (metal halide, mercury vapor and high pressure sodium) or incandescent fixtures.</i>		
2-lamp	\$20/fixture	Replacing 150 Watt to 249 Watt
3-lamp	\$25/fixture	Replacing 250 Watt or larger
4-lamp	\$50/fixture	Replacing 400 Watt to 749 Watt
6-lamp	\$40/fixture	Replacing 400 Watt to 749 Watt
6-lamp	\$70/fixture	Replacing 750 Watt or larger
All fluorescent fixtures must use electronic ballasts and T8 or T5 lamps. Ballasts shall have a power factor greater than 90%. Harmonic distortion of ballasts shall not exceed 20%. For 8-foot fluorescent ballasts, the total harmonic distortion shall not exceed 30%.		
LED Lighting – Retrofit <i>Must be ENERGY STAR® or DesignLights Consortium™ approved.</i>		
LED Screw-In Bulbs	\$4/bulb	Replacing 40-60W incandescent. Must be ENERGY STAR approved.
LED Screw-In Bulbs	\$8/bulb	Replacing 65W or greater incandescent. Must be ENERGY STAR approved.
LED Recessed Downlights <i>(Complete fixtures or replacements kits)</i>	\$8/unit	Must be ENERGY STAR approved.
LED Linear T8 Lamp or Replacement	\$5/lamp	Must be DesignLights Consortium approved.
LED Linear Fluorescent Replacement or New Fixture		
1-lamp equivalent	\$5/fixture	
2-lamp equivalent	\$10/fixture	
3-lamp equivalent	\$15/fixture	
4-lamp equivalent	\$20/fixture	

LED Lighting – Retrofit <i>Must be ENERGY STAR® or DesignLights Consortium™ approved.</i>		
LED Fixtures – HID Replacement	\$40/fixture	LED fixture Wattage of <40 Watts. Must be DesignLights Consortium approved. If used as an outside fixture it must have a photocell.
LED Fixtures – HID Replacement	\$80/fixture	LED fixture Wattage of >40 Watts. Must be DesignLights Consortium approved. If used as an outside fixture it must have a photocell.
Other Efficient Lighting Technologies – Retrofit		
Occupancy Sensors <i>Under 500 W</i>	\$20/sensor <i>(limit is \$2,000)</i>	May be wall or ceiling mounted. Programmed start ballasts are recommended for fluorescent fixtures.
Occupancy Sensors <i>Over 500 W</i>	\$40/sensor <i>(limit is \$2,000)</i>	
Plug Load Occupancy Sensor Document Stations	\$25/sensor	Each sensor incented must control at least three copiers, printers or faxes in any combination.
Snack Misers	\$25/unit	
Vending/Cooling Misers	\$50/unit	
LED Exit Sign – New Fixture ≤ 8 Watts	\$12/unit	Replace or retrofit existing sign. LED Exit Signs shall use 8 Watts or less, including the battery charger when active. Must meet State Fire Marshall codes and be UL-rated.
LED Automobile Traffic Signal	\$25/lamp replaced	Traffic signals using LED lights must replace conventional signals.
LED Pedestrian Signal	\$22/sign	Pedestrian signals using LED lights must replace conventional signals.
LED Case Lighting	\$25/door	Replacing fluorescent



Lighting – New Construction <i>(Unless noted, must be used for lighting with a minimum of 1,800 hours of operation per year)</i>		
T8 Fluorescent Systems – High Performance (CEE qualified)		
T8 4ft. High Performance		
1-lamp	\$3/fixture	Both ballasts and lamps must be from CEE-approved list and meet the CEE specifications for High Performance T8 Systems in order to qualify.
2-lamp	\$4/fixture	
3-lamp	\$6/fixture	
4-lamp	\$7/fixture	
T8 Fluorescent Systems – Reduced Wattage (CEE qualified)		
T8 4ft. Reduced Wattage 25W and 28W Systems		
1-lamp	\$3/fixture	Lamps and ballasts must meet the CEE specifications for High Performance T8 Systems.
2-lamp	\$4/fixture	
3-lamp	\$7/fixture	
4-lamp	\$9/fixture	
See "Commercial Lighting" at www.cee.org for approved lamp and ballast list. <i>However if the ballast has a NEMA premium label, it automatically qualifies.</i>		
T8 Fluorescent Fixtures – High-Bay		
High-Bay T8 Fixtures – 4ft. Lamps		
3-lamp	\$20/fixture	Install T8 fluorescent high-bay fixtures using recommendations from lighting professionals that use lighting design software to match the most efficient design to actual lighting needs. Typically used instead of pulse-start metal halide fixtures.
4-lamp	\$25/fixture	
6-lamp	\$50/fixture	
8-lamp	\$70/fixture	
High-Bay Occupancy Sensor Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is an additional incentive to add occupancy sensors to control the high-bay fluorescent fixtures listed above.• Programmed start ballasts are highly recommended for controlled fixtures.	\$10 per controlled fixture

T5HO Fluorescent High-Bay Fixtures – New Construction <i>(Unless noted, must be used for lighting with a minimum of 1,800 hours of operation per year)</i>		
3-lamp	\$25/fixture	Consult with a lighting professional using their recommendations to install T5HO fluorescent high-bay fixtures. Typically used instead of pulse-start metal halide fixtures.
4-lamp	\$50/fixture	
6-lamp	\$70/fixture	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">All fluorescent fixtures must utilize electronic ballasts and T8 or T5 lamps. Ballasts shall have a power factor greater than 90%.Harmonic distortion of ballasts shall not exceed 20%. For 8-foot fluorescent ballasts, the total harmonic distortion shall not exceed 30%.		
LED Lighting – New Construction <i>Must be ENERGY STAR® or DesignLights Consortium™ approved.</i>		
LED Screw-In Bulbs	\$4/bulb	In place of 40-60W incandescent. Must be ENERGY STAR approved.
LED Screw-In Bulbs	\$8/bulb	In place of 65W or greater incandescent. Must be ENERGY STAR approved.
LED Recessed Downlights <i>(Complete fixtures or replacements kits)</i>	\$8/unit	Must be ENERGY STAR approved.
LED Linear T8 Lamp Replacement	\$5/lamp	Must be DesignLights Consortium approved.
LED Linear Fluorescent – New Fixtures		
1-lamp equivalent	\$5/fixture	
2-lamp equivalent	\$10/fixture	
3-lamp equivalent	\$15/fixture	
4-lamp equivalent	\$20/fixture	
LED Case Lighting	\$25/door	Retrofit or new installations. Must be DesignLights Consortium approved.
LED Fixtures – HID Replacement	\$40/fixture	LED fixture Wattage of <40 Watts. Must be DesignLights Consortium™ approved. If used as an outside fixture it must have a photocell.
LED Fixtures – HID Replacement	\$80/fixture	LED fixture Wattage of >40 Watts. Must be DesignLights Consortium approved. If used as an outside fixture it must have a photocell.

Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month



They're out of sight, but don't forget about your air ducts. Taking care of them can save money and energy. Check ducts for air leaks. Take care of minor sealing jobs with heat-approved tape, especially in attics and in vented crawl spaces. Call the pros for major ductwork repairs.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Ice Dam Prevention

This winter, take these steps to avoid costly and potentially dangerous ice dams:

- Keep your attic well ventilated. The colder the attic, the less melting and refreezing you'll have on your roof.
- Keep the attic floor well insulated to minimize the amount of heat rising through the attic from within the home.
- As an extra precaution against roof leaks, have a contractor install a water-repellent membrane under your roof covering.

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Heating, Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC) Measures		
Air Conditioning Tune-up – Rooftop Units (RTUs)		\$50/unit
Central Air Conditioning Tune-up – Split Systems		\$50/unit
Packaged Terminal Air Conditioning	Minimum efficiency (EER) calculation: 12.8 EER – (213 x BTUH/1,000)	\$35/ton <i>All sizes</i>
Split System Air Conditioning	<65,000 BTUH, <5.4 tons (Single phase - 14 SEER; 3 phase - 12 EER)	\$30/ton
	65,000 – 135,000 BTUH 5.4 – 11.3 tons, 11 EER	\$40/ton
	136,000 – 240,000 BTUH 11.4 – 20 tons, 10.8 EER	\$40/ton
	241,000 – 760,000 BTUH 20.1 – 63.3 tons, 9.8 EER	\$40/ton
Unitary Single Packaged Air Conditioning <i>(including RTUs)</i>	<65,000 BTUH, <5.4 tons Single phase - 14 SEER 3 phase – 11.3 EER	\$30/ton \$50/ton
	65,000 – 135,000 BTUH 5.4 – 11.3 tons, 11 EER	\$50/ton
	136,000 – 240,000 BTUH 11.4 – 20 tons, 10.8 EER	\$50/ton
	>241,000 – 760,000 BTUH >20.1 – 63.3 tons, 10 EER	\$50/ton
ENERGY STAR® (ES) Window and Wall (Sleeve) Air Conditioning (AC)		
ES Window AC <14,000 Btu/hr.	Must meet ENERGY STAR standards	\$35/unit
ES Window AC >14,000 Btu/hr.		\$70/unit
ES Sleeve AC <14,000 Btu/hr.		\$35/unit
ES Sleeve AC >14,000 Btu/hr.		\$70/unit
Furnace/Air Handler with Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM)	Attach spec. sheet or other manufacturer provided document clearly indicating the presence of ECM.	\$150/unit
<i>New residential style air handler installations only. Unit must be equipped with an ECM as original equipment.</i>		

Heating, Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC) Measures		
Mini-Split Air-Source Heat Pump (ASHP)	Unit must be rated a minimum of 15 SEER and be on a list of prequalified units.	\$500/unit
Single Package ASHP <i>(including rooftop units)</i>	<65,000 BTUH, <5.4 tons (Single phase - 14 SEER; 3 phase - 11.3 EER)	\$30/ton
	65,000 – 135,000 BTUH 5.4 – 11.3 tons, 10.6 EER	\$25/ton
	136,000 – 240,000 BTUH 11.4 – 20 tons, 10 EER	\$35/ton
	>240,000 BTUH >20 tons, 9.1 EER	\$35/ton
Split System ASHP	<65,000 BTUH, <5.4 tons (Single phase - 14 SEER; 3 phase - 12 EER)	\$30/ton
	65,000 – 135,000 BTUH 5.4 – 11.3 tons, 10.6 EER	\$40/ton
	136,000 – 240,000 BTUH 11.4 – 20 tons, 10 EER	\$40/ton
	>240,000 BTUH >20 tons, 9.1 EER	\$40/ton
<i>For split systems, the indoor coil and condenser must be a matched set to be eligible.</i>		

Home fire escape plan from page 5

er pressure level.

If the extinguisher is damaged, corroded or low on pressure, have it professionally serviced. Your local fire department may be able to provide you with additional fire extinguisher training.

Plan your escape paths
Identify two escape paths from each room in your home

If there is smoke in your first path, use your second option. If you must exit through smoke, stay low where the air is fresher and easier to breathe.

If you must open a closed door, feel it before opening. If it is hot, use your second option.

If heat, flames or smoke block your escape paths, stay in the room with the door closed.

Signal for help at the window using a bright-colored cloth. If there is a telephone in the room call 911 and give your location.

Determine whether a ladder is needed for your plan. If it is, make sure everyone knows how to set it up and use it.

Designate a family meeting place outside the home.

Once you are out, stay out. Practice your escape plan at least two times per year.

Acknowledgments:
American Red Cross
National Fire Protection Association

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Red Lake Electric has a new payment option to make paying your bill easy. This service is free. Sign up is simple. Go to www.redlakeelectric.com and click on the Bill4U icon. There is now an app for your smartphone. Just go to your app store and download the free app.

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If you have any questions or need more information, visit our web site or call Red Lake Electric 800-245-6068.

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Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

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After-hour outage 218-253-2200
Office hours Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:30
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LOOK UP POWER LINES MAY BE OVERHEAD

Let’s keep a good thing going

Red Lake Electric urges members not to plug in electric space heaters during load control times

As members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative know, the load management program is a good thing to have around. The program helps keep our electric rates among the lowest in the country.

The program could lose much of its value, however, if electric space heaters – including those being advertised regionally – were to be substituted on a large-scale basis for the backup heating systems that are used during high demand times.

Based on honor system

In the load management program, Red Lake Electric members maintain adequate and reliable dual heating systems. This, in turn, (121002.07, Rodney Wold) qualifies them for off-peak rates that are nearly 50 percent less than regular retail rates. These systems include electric floor heat, electric furnaces and other loads that can be

interrupted during peak-use times.

When the backup systems are in operation, electric load on the regional power system is reduced. This allows our power supplier, Minnkota Power Cooperative, to avoid buying higher cost supplemental power from the wholesale market.

While there are requirements that have to be met to qualify for participation in the off-peak program, there is a certain amount of honor involved, too. Members need to allow their backup systems to take over, rather than plugging in one or more electric space heaters.

“If members of the associated distribution system violate the spirit of the program, there will be consequences,” explains Todd Sailer, Minnkota Energy Supply Manager. “Those consequences would include higher rates for all members and

extended control times for those members who are playing by the rules of the load management program.”

Major concerns

Recently ads have been appearing in regional newspapers and on the radio, promoting certain types of electric space heaters. Red Lake Electric Cooperative is concerned that members might be paying more money for products that aren’t going to result in the savings they anticipated.

“No matter how they promote it, a 1,500-watt heater is a 1,500-watt heater,” explained Kelli Brateng, member services manager at Red Lake Electric Cooperative. “You can get a space heater at the local hardware store for less than \$50. If someone is buying one of these because of advertisings, they could be spending a lot more money – up to \$400 – for something that might have a fancy cover on it, but in the

end, all they are really getting is a 1,500-watt heater.”

Members who plug in space heaters during periods of load control create another concern. The benefits of the load management program are greatly diminished when this occurs. “Electric space heaters create additional demand during times when Red Lake Electric is trying to demonstrate our ability to control heating loads, which reduces our wholesale power costs from Minnkota,” said Brateng.

Safety is also a huge concern (5821002.01, Eugene Wavra) with portable space heaters. Using a number of these heaters inside a home can overload circuits that were not wired for that kind of load. The consumer Products Safety Commission reports that each year about 28,000 house fires are attributed to space heaters, resulting in 300 related deaths. Space heaters are not inherent-

ly dangerous, but they need to be used wisely.

Dual heating systems – a better solution

“It’s not hard to understand why someone who is paying \$3.06 a gallon for fuel oil would think it is a great option to plug in a heater,” said Brateng. “But what they may not understand is that over time it will increase their overall costs.”

If a number of off-peak members began using one, two or even three space heaters, this would directly affect their cooperative. This could result in a rate increase for all members, or even worse – the program could be eliminated altogether.

“Instead of the possibility of paying the full rate for electricity for space heaters, members should consider adding to their off-peak systems,” Brateng said. “These systems allow Red Lake Electric Cooperative to

control heating loads during times when supplemental power from the open market is most expensive.”

By either expanding a dual heating system or developing a new one, members will receive the most economical rate available for their electricity, and the integrity of the load management system will be maintained long into the future.

A blend of primary off-peak electric heat with a fuel oil, propane or natural gas backup heating system is less expensive than heating with fossil fuels alone.

“Off-peak electric heating continues to be the most economical heating choice this winter season,” Brateng said.

Information about developing a dual heat system is available by contacting the member service department at Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Call 1-800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168 for more details.

Frostbite and hypothermia

Winter doesn't slow outdoor activity for most Minnesotans. Whether at work or play, frostbite and hypothermia are a risk. Consider the following tips to prevent and treat these common problems:

Dress for winter success:

The most important step in fighting the cold is how you dress. Staying dry is as important as staying warm. Dress in light layers. Long underwear made of polypropylene wicks moisture away from the body. Inner layers of wool or waffle weave synthetics provide insulation. The outer layer should be made of wind and moisture resistant fabrics.

Wearing a hat cuts body heat loss. Cover as much skin as possible. Take extra care with fingers and toes. Wear an extra pair of socks and wear boots. Choosing mittens over gloves will keep your fingers warmer.

Other helpful steps include:

lotion such as blankets, pillows, towels or even newspapers beneath and around the victim. Be sure to cover the victim's head. Replace wet clothing with dry clothing. Handle the victim gently because rough handling can cause cardiac arrest. Keep the victim lying down. Give artificial respiration or CPR (if you are trained) as necessary.

Frostbite:

Frostbite occurs when exposed flesh becomes frozen. Ice crystals form in the soft tissues due to over-exposure to cold. These ice crystals cause the skin to rupture, killing the cells. The most common areas affected by frostbite are the nose, cheeks, ears, toes and fingers. Like hypothermia, frostbite goes through several stages of severity.

Symptoms of the first stage, called frostnip, are numbness and changes in the color of the skin, which first turns red, then white. Frostnip causes no permanent damage because only the surface of the skin is involved; however, the affected area may develop long-term sensitivity to cold.

Superficial frostbite occurs if exposure continues. The skin becomes white and waxy, and grayish-yellow patches may appear on the affected areas. The skin feels cold and numb. The skin surface feels stiff but underlying tissue feels soft and pliable when depressed.

Treat superficial frostbite by taking the victim inside immediately. Remove any constrictive clothing items and jewelry that could impair circulation. Seek medical attention. Place sterile gauze between the toes and fingers to absorb moisture and to keep them from sticking together. Slightly elevate the affected part to reduce pain and swelling. If you are more than one hour from a medical facility and you have warm (not hot) water, place the frostbitten part in the water. Rewarming usually takes 20 to 45 minutes or until tissues soften.

Deep frostbite usually affects the feet or the hands and is characterized by waxy, pale, solid skin. Blisters may appear. Treat deep frostbite by moving the victim indoors and immediately seek medical attention.

Acknowledgments: National Safety Council and Hennepin County Medical Center Burn Center



Employees and directors of Red Lake Electric Cooperative were recently recognized for their years of service to the Cooperative. They are, from left, Casey Thronson, crew foreman, 10 years; Kelli Brateng, member services manager, five years; Robert Finstad, District 8 director, 15 years; Mike Raymond, service technician 25 years; Aaron Derosier, apprentice lineman, five years; Robert Guillemette, manager of operations, 40 years. Not pictured: Kelly Lundeen, District 7 director, 20 years; Troy Schmitz, crew foreman, 10 years.

Outdated and used child safety seats

Child safety seats that are more than six years old should be replaced. Normal wear and tear may cause the seat to not work as well as it did when it was new. Also, newer seats have improved safety designs. A safety seat that was used in a vehicle during a crash should NOT be used again; it should be destroyed. Just like cars and other products, a car seat may be "recalled" because of a defect which could injure your child. Manufacturers are required to fix the problem free of charge. If your seat is recalled, be sure to get it fixed right away.

Safe Behavior: When you purchase a child safety seat, be sure to register it with the manufacturer so you will be notified of any safety recalls. All new safety seats come with a registration card. To check your safety seat for recalls, find the manufacturer's name and toll-free phone number on the side of the seat. Also, write down the name of your specific model, and the date of manufacture. For some recalls, you will also need to check the model number, which is found on the same sticker as the date. If the date is missing or the date is not clearly marked, assume that all possible recalls apply to your seat.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

Things you should know about your electric service

BILLINGS AND COLLECTION

You will receive your energy bill on or near the 10th of each month. Payment of your monthly energy bill is due on the 10th of the month. You may pay your bill in person at RLEC during office hours, use the 24-hour drive-up drop box located next to the RLEC office, by Auto Pay, by mail or by Bill4U on www.redlakeelectric.com.

Payment must be in our office or in the mail as evidenced by the postmark on or by the 25th day of the month to avoid a late payment charge. A 1 1/2% monthly late payment charge will be computed on delinquent energy bills; the minimum late payment charge will be \$1.00.

If your payment is not received by the end of the month a notice of disconnection statement will be included in the message area on your following energy bill. The disconnection statement will give a final notice of when your electric service will be disconnected if the delinquent amount remains unpaid. If an employee is sent to disconnect your electric service a \$60 collection fee will be charged to your account, even if you pay the collector.

To have a disconnected service reconnected, all amounts owing including the \$60 reconnection fee and a security deposit must be paid. If the service must be reconnected after normal working hours a \$120 reconnection fee must be paid.

BAD CHECKS

A \$15 charge will be levied each time a check is returned because of nonsufficient funds, account being closed or payment stopped along with any applicable bank charges.

OUTAGES

In case your electricity goes out, please do the following:

1. Check your fuses or breakers at the yard pole or meter pedestal.
2. Call your neighbor to see if they are out of electricity also.
3. Call the RLEC office (218-253-2168 or 1-800-245-6068) during working hours or 218-253-2200 after hours.

METER TESTS

RLEC has a schedule in place to have its meters periodically tested for accuracy. Results from these tests show that meters generally slow down with age; however, if you think that your meter is recording too much usage, RLEC will test it for accuracy. You must pay a test fee in advance of the test. If the meter test shows that the meter was inaccurate, the test fee will be refunded to you.

STOPPED METERS

If you find your meter has stopped and you are using electricity, please contact the office immediately so we can replace it. Average consumption will be billed to the member for the time the meter was stopped so there is no advantage in not reporting a stopped meter.

METER READINGS

An automated meter reading system is utilized to obtain monthly meter readings. Although the system is normally reliable, that is always a chance that the correct reading has not been transmitted to the office for billing. Customers should periodically read their meter and compare it to the reading on the billing statement. If the actual reading is not close to the billing statement reading, please call the office. Keep in mind that the reading on your bill is from the end of the month.

GENERAL SERVICE RATES

Facilities charge variable	\$27 to \$35 month
April-December	9.5¢ Kwh
January-March	9.9¢ Kwh
Long term off peak	5.5¢
Short term off peak	7.5¢
Off-peak equipment charge,	\$5.50/month per heat meter.
Multiphase users add	\$22/month cost of service charge.
Standby, \$12/month (meter disconnected but the power line remains; standby is not available on services larger than 15 KVA transformer capacity).	
Security light:	LED, \$8/month; High pressure sodium, \$8/month; mercury vapor, \$9/month; water heater flat credit, \$7/month (January-April billing).

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, 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.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Form, found online at www.ascr.usda.gov or at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form.

Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., D.C. 20250-9410, by fax 202-690-7442 or email program.intake@usda.gov.

Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are available upon request or on line at www.redlake-electric.com.