



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. 46 – NO. 11

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

SEPTEMBER 2011

Let your voice be heard on regional haze

In recent months, there has been a significant level of discussion in the U.S. and this region regarding environmental issues.

Minnkota Power Cooperative, our wholesale energy supplier, its member-owners, including Red Lake Electric Cooperative, and other regional cooperatives are a significant part of that debate.

The latest debate has surrounded an issue called Regional Haze and a dispute between the state of North Dakota and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). On Sept. 1, the EPA indicated it will propose to take over the state of North Dakota's Regional Haze plan to improve visibility in areas including North Dakota's Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge's wilderness area.

The EPA communicated its proposal in a Federal Register notice Sept. 21. As members of the public, we have a 60-day opportunity to comment on EPA's plan through Nov. 21. Minnkota has worked with others in this region to develop a website, www.stopEPAnd.com, where you can follow a "Take Action Now!" link to submit formal comments.

North Dakota's state plan, the EPA says, isn't good enough to address nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions at Minnkota's Milton R. Young Station, Basin Electric Power Cooperative's Leland Olds and Antelope Valley stations and Great River Energy's Coal Creek



Station.

If the EPA is successful in its attempt to take over the state's plan dealing with NOx emissions, all Minnkota cooperatives would see a rate increase of 20 to 30 percent to pay for technology that would be required to comply with this Federal Implementation Plan (FIP).

We believe the EPA should not take over the state of North Dakota's plan to improve visibility. North Dakota's (6725002.05 Allen Paquin) plan achieves a significant amount of reduction in emissions and visibility while taking into account feasibility and cost-effectiveness.

Minnkota complied with the state plan by installing, at a cost of \$40 million, Over-Fire Air (OFA)+Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction (SNCR) technology that is proven to work on cyclone-fired boilers fueled with high-sodium North Dakota lignite coal. It will reduce 55 to 60 percent of the NOx emissions.

The EPA plan would force Minnkota to add an additional technology called Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) that the agency believes will reduce 90 percent of the NOx emissions. SCR, which will not work on cyclone-fired boilers fueled with high-sodium North Dakota lignite coal, could cost Minnkota an additional \$500 million to install.

Even if Minnkota could demonstrate that SCR technology works on its plants, the emissions-reduction difference is not discernable to the human eye. A deciview can be used to measure visibility. EPA says most humans can only see one deciview distinction, but SCRs only improve 0.553 deciviews over OFA+SNCR.

Modeling done by the state of North Dakota indicates that shutting down all of the power plants in North Dakota would not allow the state to meet EPA's visibility goals because of significant emission inflows from other states and Canada.

And remember, in 2010 the American Lung Association identified eight North Dakota counties, including Mercer and Oliver counties (home to several coal-based power plants), as having "A" grades for clean air. Oliver County is home to Minnkota's Young Station.

The current debate issue is not about health. The state is already meeting required National Ambient Air Quality Standards to reduce emissions that can impair health.

Consumers in our region enjoy some of the cleanest air in the country and are currently paying for more than \$425 million in environmental upgrades installed in the last few years. Does it really make

sense to require huge additional investments for visibility improvement that, even if it did work, would be imperceptible to the human eye? The state of North Dakota doesn't think so, and we agree. The overreaching EPA goes too far in attempting to take away North Dakota's authority to implement federal Clean Air Act rules in the state.

So go to www.stopEPAnd.com and tell the EPA the FIP is not right for Minnkota members' consumers in Minnesota and North Dakota.

What you can do to help stop EPA from severely impacting your rates

- Go to www.stopEPAnd.com. On the website, learn more about the proposed Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) and follow a "Take Action Now!" link to submit formal comments to the EPA.

- Contact your Congressional delegation and ask them to keep fighting for the North Dakota state plan for Regional Haze in areas such as North Dakota's Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the Lostwood National Wildlife Refuge's wilderness area.

- Contact the EPA with a letter, if you do not have access to the internet, expressing your concerns about the FIP.

Rep. Collin Peterson

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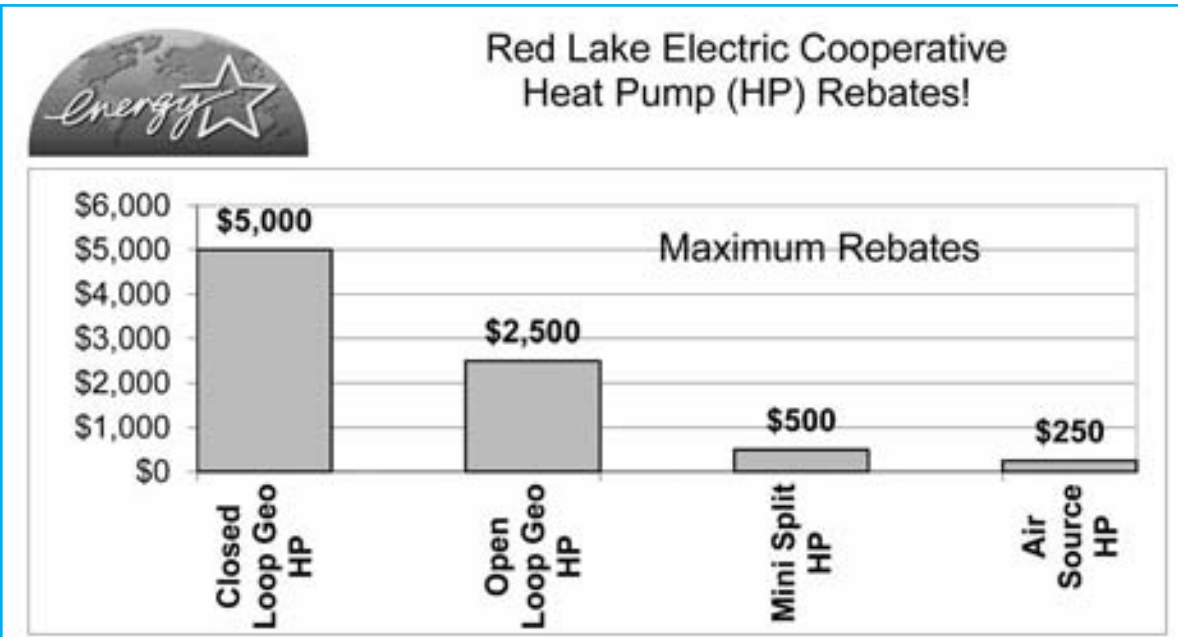
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QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Red Lake Electric Cooperative promotes energy conservation by offering rebates to customers who purchase any of the following new equipment that are qualifying Energy Star® rated products. Products that meet or exceed energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental protection agency are easily identified by the Energy Star® logo. Call us today at 1-800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168 if you have any questions on how to qualify for your Energy Star® rebate from Red Lake Electric Cooperative.



Mickelson to serve as Trust Board Director

Patty Mickelson of Oklee has agreed to serve as a director on the Red Lake Electric Cooperative Trust Board. The Trust Board determines grants for Red Lake Electric's Operation RoundUp® program.

"There is only so much opportunity for non-profit and service organizations to raise funds. Operation RoundUp provides another avenue for funding," stated Mickelson. "This is a great program that has assisted many community groups."

Mickelson is employed as a band and choir director with the Red Lake County Central (RLCC) school district. She teaches elementary band at the Plummer school and high school band and choir at the Oklee school. Currently she is in her fifth year of instruction.

Patty and her husband Eric have resided on their rural Oklee farm for over 20 years. They raise beef cattle and small grains. Together they own and operate Mickelson's Auction Service with Patty serving as clerk of sales.

Eric teaches fifth grade for the Goodridge School District. The



Patty Mickelson

Mickelson's have three sons. Nick has a psychology degree and continues to attend the University of North Dakota (UND) pursuing physical therapy; Marshall also attends UND pursuing a degree in education and Heath is a junior at Goodridge High School.

The Mickelson's are very

involved in the community. They are members of Zion Lutheran Church in Oklee where they serve as (1223003.02 Thomas and Michelle Gullikson) youth group leaders. Patty conducts the Chime Choir at church, has served on the education board and has taught Sunday school. The family has been involved with the Red Lake County 4-H program for several years with the boys being members of the Garners-Go-Getters 4-H Club and Patty and Eric having served as leaders. Patty and Eric have also been a part of the Emerging Leaders Program.

"When I was asked to serve on the Operation RoundUp Trust Board I thought it was another opportunity to serve the community," said Mickelson.

Mickelson will serve with other Trust Board Directors Randy Knutson of Newfolden, Van Swanson of Thief River Falls, Bonnie Christians of Crookston and Roger Johanneck of Red Lake Falls.

Since the inception of Operation RoundUp in 1993, \$366,000 has been granted to community organizations and charities.

Operation RoundUp® grant applications are due Oct. 7

Organizations involved in community projects and charities are encouraged to apply for funds from Operation RoundUp at this time. Completed grant applications are due in the Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) office by Oct. 7.

Operation RoundUp is a program adopted by RLEC headquartered in Red Lake Falls. Customers choosing to "round up" their monthly electric bill payment provide funds for this effort. More than 85 percent of RLEC members now choose to contribute pennies each month to enhance their communities.

Funds will (4426003.02 Marie Iverson) be donated primarily to nonprofit organizations to help fund specific projects or programs. Since the program began in 1993, \$366,000 has been granted to community organizations and charities. Money is donated for the better-



ment of the community within the outside service area boundaries of RLEC.

The Red Lake Electric Trust Board of Directors determines grants. Board members are Patty Mickelson, Oklee; Van Swanson, Thief River Falls; Randy Knutson, Newfolden; Roger Johanneck and Bonnie Christians, Crookston.

To apply for Operation RoundUp grants organizations should contact the RLEC office in Red Lake Falls at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068. A short application must be completed and submitted along with a financial statement from the organization. The grant application form is available on the Cooperative's Web site: www.redlakeelectric.com.

For more information contact Roger Johanneck, general manager of RLEC, at 253-2168 or 800-245-6068.



Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



Let's send a clear message to the EPA

For the past two months, we have printed stories in the *Volts and Jolts* regarding an issue between the state of North Dakota and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) called Regional Haze. At first glance, you might wonder what that has to do with us Minnesotan's and more specifically Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) and its members. If you read those articles, you already know that this issue is about more than North Dakota and will, if carried out, impact Minnkota Power and all of its member systems like Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

If the EPA gets its way, more environmental regulations will be

forced upon Minnkota and additional environmental equipment will be required at it's Milton R. Young power plant located near Center, N.D.

To give you some perspective of the impact (5821004.01 Andy Moran) this Regional Haze proposal by the EPA could have, consider that the rise in Red Lake Electric Cooperative's retail rates the past three years can be pinned to the \$425 million in EPA required environmental upgrades just completed at Minnkota's Milton R. Young power plant. Early estimates place the cost of upgrades to meet the EPA's Regional Haze Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) at a cost

of \$500 Million. Numbers like that equate into an increase in rates to our members in the 30 to 35 percent range.

If you haven't done so already, I ask that you read the Regional Haze information printed elsewhere in this issue of the *Volts and Jolts*. There is also a website available to give you more background on the issue and an opportunity to join in the fight to stop EPA from overriding the state of North Dakota's plan for meeting clean air standards. We all support clean air and good stewardship of the environment, but this latest proposal by the EPA deserves this clear, united response from all of us: "enough is enough."



Member Service Department

by Kevin Reich

Off-peak electric heat rates versus fossil fuel prices

With two rate adjustments in the same calendar year once again the question being asked is, "how does Red Lake Electric's off-peak electric heat rates compare to the prices of other fuels?"

Effective Sept. 11, the long-term control, off-peak electric rate is 5.5 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh). Add the half-cent per kWh renewable energy surcharge and the net rate is 6 cents per kWh. This off-peak rate is equivalent to propane at \$1.45 per gallon for a furnace operating at 90 percent efficiency. It compares to fuel oil at \$1.97 per gallon for an 80 percent efficient furnace.

The average price of propane throughout the Minnkota Power service territory of Northwest Minnesota and Northeast North Dakota, as of Aug. 22, was \$1.85 per gallon. The average price of fuel oil was

\$3.54 per gallon. In comparison, the long-term control, off-peak electric heat rate is more favorable than fossil fuel prices.

If your home would require 68M Btu to heat it for the heating season, that equates to 19,924 kWh. At a price of 6 cents per kWh that adds up to a cost of \$1,195.44. The same Btu for propane would require 825 gallons. At \$1.85 per gallon, the cost of heating would be \$1,526.25. The savings with long-term control, off-peak electric heat would be \$264.81; after subtracting the off-peak equipment charge totaling \$66 annually.

The short-term control, off-peak electric rate is 7.5 cents per kWh. With the half-cent renewable energy surcharge, the net rate is 8 cents per kWh. Eight cents per kWh is equivalent to propane at \$1.93 per

gallon for a 90 percent efficient furnace. It is equivalent to fuel oil at \$2.63 per gallon for a furnace operating at 80 percent efficiency.

Heating your home with short-term control electric heat would certainly be less expensive than fuel oil, but slightly more expensive than propane.

For the most part, members who have chosen the short-term control, off-peak electric heat do not have an automatic, reliable backup heat source such as propane or fuel oil.

Even with recent rate adjustments, for the (4826002.03 Kelly Dahlen) most part, off-peak electric heat costs compare favorably with fossil fuels.

With the temperatures we experienced on Sept. 13 and 14, it is obvious the heating season is upon us. Regardless of the type of heating equipment in your home, make sure it is serviced and operational for the heating season.

If we can be of any assistance with questions or concerns you may have about heating your home, call us at 253-2168 or 800-245-6068.



The Facts on Regional Haze

EPA should approve the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) Regional Haze State Implementation Plan (SIP).

The goal of the Regional Haze program is to improve visibility; it does not focus on health.

North Dakota's SIP improves visibility

- It identifies the Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) as Over-Fire Air (OFA) and SNCR (Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction) technology for North Dakota's cyclone lignite-fired boilers, including Minnkota's Milton R. Young units.

EPA wants to force North Dakota's cyclone lignite-fired boilers to install technology (namely, Selective Catalytic Reduction, SCR) that is unreasonably expensive relative to the small improvement for visibility – and SCR has not been demonstrated to work on cyclone lignite-fired boilers.

- Western North Dakota facilities have spent a combined \$1 billion in recent years on the control of emissions.
- Minnkota has already installed OFA+SNCR technology and updated SO2 scrubbers:

- Improvement: NOx controls reduce emissions by 55 to 60 percent, and SO2 scrubbers remove 95 percent of the SO2.
- Cost: more than \$425 million.

- If Minnkota were forced to use SCR, it could cost more than \$500 million to install. The OFA+SNCR technology cost \$40 million to install.

- The NDDoH and the Western Regional Air Partnership conducted sophisticated visibility modeling and found that any visibility advantages are less than one tenth of 1 percent, hundreds of times lower than even someone with perfect vision can see.

- The technology isn't proven! North Dakota's high-sodium lignite coal is unique – when this technology was tested on North Dakota boilers using lignite coal, the catalyst failed after two months.

The OFA+SNCR technology identified by the state provides visibility improvements at a lower cost – and will work on North Dakota facilities.

North Dakota's air is among the country's cleanest.

- In 2010, the American Lung Association gave Oliver County (home to Minnkota's Milton R. Young Station) and Mercer County (home to several coal-fired power plants), along with six other North Dakota counties, an "A" grade for lack of ozone.

Out-of-state sources are the problem.

- A study by the NDDoH found that international and out-of-state sources are the most significant cause of impaired visibility in the state's national parks and wilderness areas. If all North Dakota facilities were shut down, the regional haze reasonable progress goals still wouldn't be met.

The EPA is ignoring North Dakota's authority and local knowledge.

- A state's authority and flexibility to regulate its own clean air programs is an essential part of the Clean Air Act. The Act is designed to prevent the federal government from substituting its flexible judgment for a state's superior knowledge of local conditions and needs.

The impact: Requiring Minnkota to add SCR would increase Minnkota's costs by 30-35 percent – without any perceptible improvement to visibility – which will force Minnkota to raise rates 20 to 30 percent to its co-ops in North Dakota and Minnesota.

From the Mail Bag

Dear RLEC:

Thank you Red Lake Electric for sponsoring the Market Lamb Rate of Gain Award at the Pennington County Fair. Thanks for supporting 4-H.

**Lauryn Nordine
Goodridge
Highlanding 4-H Club**

Dear RLEC:

On Aug. 23, a bird shorted out our power and electricity was out for three hours at our farm. Thanks to the crew for the service and the new transformer.

**Angie and Gail Steinhauer
Thief River Falls**

Dear RLEC:

Thank you for featuring our century farm in your July issue of the *Volts and Jolts*. Please convey to Mr. Johanneck of the Red Lake Falls Gazette my thanks for doing a great job with the interview and article. My family was thrilled with the extra copies we received. Copies were sent as far away as California, New York and Washington. Your article has become a part of our family history. Again, thank you.

**Sincerely,
Sharon Russell and family
Thief River Falls**

AFTER-HOURS
OUTAGE PHONE
253-2200

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

WE PROUDLY PRESENT TO YOU

The Red Lake Electric Cooperative Customer Service Guarantee



It's short and simple! Red Lake Electric Cooperative employees will meet or exceed your expectations of friendly, courteous service and will meet any commitments they make to you. If your expectations of the service provided by our employees is not met, please contact me at the Red Lake Electric Cooperative office, 253-2168. You will receive \$5.00 for your inconvenience and our promise to serve you better in the future. Our employees' commitment to quality customer service makes this guarantee possible.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

ROGER JOHANNECK
General Manager



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 20th of each month.

Payment of your monthly energy bill is due on the 20th 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, or by mail. Payment must be in the office, drop box, Auto Pay, or in the mail, as evidenced by the postmark, by the 5th day of the following 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 15th of the month, a final notice of disconnection statement will be included on your following bill. The final notice statement will notify you when your electric service will be disconnected if the delinquent amount remains unpaid. If an employee is sent to disconnect your electric service, a \$50 collection fee will be charged to your account, even if you pay the collector.

To have a disconnected service reconnected, all amounts owing, a \$50 reconnection fee, and a security deposit must be paid. If the service must be reconnected after normal working hours, a \$100 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.

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. We will accept collect calls for outages only.

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, there 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.

GENERAL SERVICE RATES

Facilities charge variable \$24 to \$31 month

First 500 KWH9.6¢ Kwh
Over 500 KWH (April-Dec.)8.4¢ Kwh
Over 500 KWH (Jan.-Mar.)9.1¢ Kwh

Multiphase users add \$20/month cost of service charge.

Standby, \$12/month (meter disconnected but the power line retained; standby is not available on services larger than 15 KVA transformer capacity).

Security light, \$7/month, high pressure sodium, \$8/month, mercury vapor; water heater flat credit, \$7/month (on January-April billing); off-peak equipment charge, \$5.00/month per heat meter; off-peak electric heat rate, 4.7¢/kWh long-term control, 7.0¢/kWh short-term control.

RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc. VOLTS & JOLTS

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NOTICE

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of the Volts & Jolts are the names and account numbers of five 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

Grilled Burgers

1/4 c. sour cream
2 tsp. dried parsley flakes
1 tsp. dried thyme
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
2-1/2 lbs. ground beef
10 hamburger buns, split
Lettuce leaves, sliced tomato and onion, optional
In a large bowl, combine the first five ingredients; add beef and mix gently. Shape into 10 patties. Grill, uncovered, over medium heat for 4 to 5 minutes on each side or until meat is no longer pink. Serve on buns with lettuce, tomato and onion if desired. Yield: 10 servings.

Butternut Sausage Puff

2 c. hot mashed butternut squash
3 eggs, separated
1/4 c. all-purpose flour
1/4 c. minced fresh parsley
2 Tbsp. butter or margarine
2 tsp. finely chopped onion
2 tsp. lemon juice
1/2 tsp. dried thyme
1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 lb. bulk pork sausage, cooked and drained
Fresh thyme, optional
In a bowl, combine squash, egg yolks, flour, parsley, butter, onion, lemon juice, thyme and salt; mix until well blended. Stir in sausage. Cool for 10 minutes. In a small mixing bowl, beat egg whites until stiff peaks form; fold into squash mixture. Pour into greased and floured 2-quart baking dish. Bake, uncovered, at 375 degrees for 45 to 50 minutes or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean. Garnish with thyme if desired. Yield: 4 to 6 servings.

Mexican Corn Casserole

4 eggs
1 can (15-1/4 oz.) whole kernel corn, drained
1 can (14-3/4 oz.) cream-style corn
1-1/2 c. cornmeal
1-1/4 c. buttermilk
1 c. butter or margarine, melted
2 cans (4 oz. each) chopped green chilies
2 medium onions, chopped
1 tsp. baking soda
3 c. (12 oz.) shredded cheddar cheese, divided
Jalapeno pepper and sweet red pepper rings, optional
Beat eggs in a large bowl; add the next eight ingredients and mix well. Stir in 2 cups cheese. Pour into a greased 13-inch by 9-inch by 2-inch baking dish. Bake, uncovered, at 325 degrees for 1 hour. Top with remaining cheese. Let stand for 15 minutes before serving. Garnish with peppers if desired. Yield: 12 to 15 servings.

Cinnamon Chocolate Cake

2 c. all-purpose flour
2 c. sugar
1-1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
1/4 tsp. salt
1 c. water
1/2 c. vegetable oil
1/2 c. butter or margarine
1/4 c. baking cocoa
2 eggs
1/2 c. buttermilk
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 tsp. baking soda
Frosting:
1/2 c. butter or margarine
1/3 c. whipping cream
1/4 c. baking cocoa
1-1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
3 c. confectioners' sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 c. finely chopped walnuts
In a mixing bowl, combine the first four ingredients. In a saucepan, combine water, oil, butter and cocoa; bring to a boil over medium heat. Pour over dry ingredients; mix well. Add eggs, buttermilk, vanilla and baking soda; mix well. Pour into a greased and floured 15-inch by 10-inch by 1-inch baking pan. Bake at 375 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Meanwhile, for frosting, combine the butter, cream, cocoa and cinnamon in a saucapan. Cook and stir over medium heat until butter is melted and mixture is heated through. Remove from the heat; beat in sugar and vanilla until smooth. Stir in walnuts. Carefully spread over hot cake. Cool completely. Yield: 24 to 30 servings.

William Tell's Never-Miss Apple Cake

1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
2 c. sugar, divided
4 eggs
1 c. canola oil
2 c. all-purpose flour
2 tsp. baking powder
2 tsp. ground cinnamon
1 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. baking soda
2 c. chopped peeled tart apples
1 c. shredded carrots
1/2 c. chopped pecans
Praline Icing:
1/2 c. packed brown sugar
1/4 c. butter, cubed
2 tbsps. 2% milk
1/2 c. confectioners' sugar
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
1/4 c. chopped pecans, toasted
In a small bowl, beat cream cheese and 1/4 cup sugar until smooth. Beat in 1 egg; set aside.
In a large bowl, beat oil with remaining sugar and eggs until well blended. Combine the flour, baking powder, cinnamon, salt and baking soda; gradually beat into oil mixture until blended. Stir in apples, carrots and pecans.
Transfer half of the apple batter to a greased and floured 10-inch fluted tube pan; layer with the cream cheese mixture and the remaining apple batter.
Bake at 350 degrees for 50 to 60 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pan to a wire rack to cool completely.
In a large saucepan, bring the brown sugar, butter and milk to a boil. Cook and stir for 1 minute. Remove from the heat; whisk in confectioners' sugar and vanilla until smooth. Drizzle over cake. Sprinkle with pecans. Yield: 12 servings.

Corn Salsa

1 can (15-1/4 oz.) or 2 c. whole kernel corn, drained
1/2 c. chopped green pepper
1/2 c. chopped sweet red pepper
1/2 c. chopped red onion
1 medium tomato, chopped
1/4 c. sliced ripe olives
2 Tbsp. chopped pickled jalapeno peppers
1 tsp. pickled jalapeno pepper juice
2 Tbsp. vinegar
2 Tbsp. cider or red wine vinegar
1/2 tsp. garlic salt
1/2 tsp. pepper
Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Cover and chill for several hours. Yield: 4 cups.

Federal tax credits still available for energy efficient measures but at reduced amounts

Tax credits for energy efficiency measures were extended into 2011, but at lower levels. The levels revert back to those in effect in 2006 and 2007.
The current criteria also has a lifetime limit of \$500.
If you received more than \$500 in tax credits from 2006 to 2010, you are not eligible for any additional credits.
The following credits are available for energy conservation upgrades:
• 10 percent up to \$500 for insulation, roofs and doors.
• Windows capped at \$200, but qualification now Energy Star.
• Furnace and boilers capped at \$150, and all furnaces and boilers must meet 95 AFUE.
• \$50 for advanced main air circulating fan.
• \$300 for air conditioners, air source heat pumps, water heaters, and biomass stoves.
• \$300 for electric heat pump water heaters.
• 30 percent of the cost of a geothermal heat pump with no upper limit.
The tax credit for geothermal is good through Dec. 31, 2016.
If you have any questions on the tax credits or whether or not you qualify, contact your tax consultant.
If you have any questions about these or additional efficiency measures, visit Energy Star at www.energystar.gov.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. Operating Report

MONTHLY COMPARISON

	JULY 2010	JULY 2011
Total Revenue	\$ 691,418	\$ 796,878
Total Margins	\$ (57,944)	\$ (162,528)
Cost of Power	\$ 526,216	\$ 695,113
KWH's Purchased	8,027,863	7,916,520
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 5,682	\$ 6,956

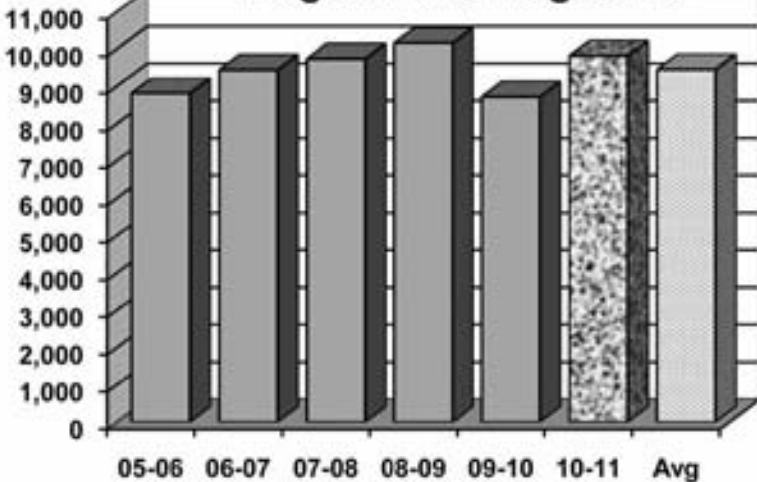
YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

	JULY 2010	JULY 2011
Total Revenue	\$ 6,656,214	\$ 7,705,722
Total Margins	\$ 515,288	\$ 342,955
Cost of Power	\$ 4,462,701	\$ 5,574,193
KWH's Purchased	82,450,949	87,276,304
New Service Connections	20	21
Customers Served	5,198	5,200
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 52,103	\$ 61,314
Miles of Line		
Overhead	2,325	2,324
Underground	235	239

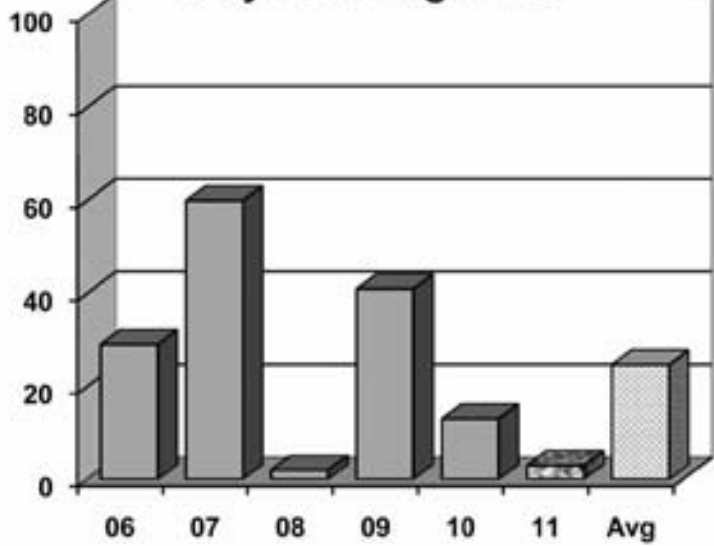
DEGREE DAYS

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.

YEAR TO DATE DEGREE DAYS August 20 to August 20



DEGREE DAYS July 20 to August 20



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Buy energy efficient Christmas lights & decorations

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How to apply:

1. Purchase LED Christmas plug-in (not battery operated) lights and decorations in 2011.

2. Complete this coupon and submit it to Red Lake Electric Cooperative by Dec. 31, 2011, with your original sales receipt and the LED packaging showing the LED logo and number of lights per string.

3. Strings must be 100 or fewer lights.

4. \$3/string of lights, maximum of 5 strings per customer. Rebate cannot exceed price of LED string per package.

Name _____ City/Zip _____

Account # _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Number of Strings	Rebate per string	Total Rebate

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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
- US Consumer Product Safety Commission: www.cpsc.gov

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A DIFFERENCE?

ND
HAS
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VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

The making of a century farm in 3 generations

"What makes a man take his wife and five children from southern Minnesota and go north in the spring to a place they have never been to settle a piece of land they have never seen that has nothing on it?" mused Norman Stenvik from his dining room table as his wife, Lorraine listens, smiles and rifles through photos and articles about the Stenvik farm history. "Why would he then leave that property and start over again with nothing just a few miles away?" Stenvik further queried.

These two questions may make a person wonder about the earliest beginnings of the establishment of the Stenvik family farm by John Stenvik, a Norwegian immigrant, more than 100 years ago near Goodridge. They are also commentary on the sacrifices and gambles early settlers took in order to establish themselves at the turn of the century.

John Stenvik had taken his family and all of their possessions, farm equipment and horses loaded on two train cars and headed for the Thief River Falls area where they sat for a week until they could cross the river.

They had to push their way through swamps on makeshift roads fashioned from felled trees laid side by side and perpendicular to the roadway which are referred to as "corduroy" roads. This leg of their journey from the other side of the river to their first homestead in Northern Minnesota took an additional week. Shortly after arriving and establishing the first farm and for reasons unknown, John moved his family to another plot of land a few miles down the road and started from scratch again.

The brand new Stenvik farm was an empty farmstead surrounded by 160 acres of fresh farmland that had recently been ceded from the Red Lake reservation. A house had to be built immediately and was standing by the end of that first year at the hand of John and his family. John also erected a log barn.

The Stenviks set to work turning the soil and continuing to erect the



Norman and Lorraine Stenvik of Goodridge spend every day on the Stenvik Century Farm keeping busy with upkeep, daily chores, tending garden, and keeping up with friends and family. Their farm was established in 1907 by John Stenvik and was regnized as a Century Farm in 2011 by the Minnesota Farm Bureau and the Minnesota State Fair.

necessary farm buildings which included a poultry shed, a classic gambrel style dairy barn that was the mainstay of the early farms and eventually a granary. Livestock numbers increased as the capacity increased and soon the Stenviks were established farmers.

Oscar, the second oldest of the Stenviks purchased the farm around 1935 and continued the operation. Oscar and his wife had 9 children. Their son Norman was involved in every aspect of the farm apart from working with horses which were replaced by tractors by the time he was old enough to be assigned chores.

Norman grew up with some conveniences such as electricity, introduced in 1948 and gas powered trac-

tors. The first of which was a W30 McCormick. His father later added a 1948 WC Allis Chalmers he purchased new for \$1,400 which, when retired from field work, remained on the farm. A model M McCormick was also added but was not the favorite machine of Norman who was happy to see it sold and out of his life a few years later. The Stenviks remember the days without electricity when kerosene lamps were used for evening chores and yard lights were non existant. Kerosene lanterns were still used at times after the electricity was put in and eventually a milking machine was installed that reduced milking time.

In time, the farm grew to 320 acres and, by 1957, was operated by

Norman who had erected a new home. He rented out the farmland at first and then started farming it again in 1964 after the place was rebuilt due to a tornado that swept through and destroyed all but one of the buildings. The main house was damaged but still standing.

The Stenviks added 16 feet to the house. They later tore down part of the old house and added onto the 16 feet they had put up earlier. Still later thay added onto the other end of the 16 foot section to form the house they live in today.

The original farmhouse that Norman grew up in was abandoned when Norman and Lorraine were married and moved into their own home on the farm. The old house was razed by fire at the hands of Norman and son, Keith.

One day, the Stenviks evaluated their machinery and what it would take to stay in the farming business. They decided to discontinue farming when son Scott graduated from high school and today rent out the farmland. Norman began working for a local heating company and later went out on his own. After 43 years working away from the farm, Norman retired to the farmstead where the duo enjoys keeping the place up by planting flowers and vegetables and keeping the buildings and yard in good repair.

They spend their days together on the original farmstead tending the garden they populate with interesting and sometimes unusual strains

of vegetables and fruits, tinkering in the shop, mowing acres of grass, visiting with friends and keeping in touch with family. "We wouldn't even think of being anywhere else." remarked Lorraine. "We have what we need right here."

The Minnesota Farm Bureau and the Minnesota State Fair work in conjunction on the Century Farm program to honor Minnesota families that have owned their farms for at least 100 years, are at least 50 acres in size and are currently involved in agricultural production. The Norman and Lorraine Stenvik farm was recognized as a Pennington County Century Farm in 2011. A presentation was made on Sunday, July 24 at the Pennington County Fair.



A closer look at the weather vane located in the lush flower gardens that surround the Stenvik home reveals a clever and humorous way to check the temperature in Northern Minnesota.



One of several cultivated and landscaped flower beds located on the Norman and Lorraine Stenvik Century Farm near Goodridge. The desire to plant and nurture remains part of the Stenvik farming lifestyle.



The Oscar Stenvik Family with 7 of their 9 children. Oscar's father John Stenvik founded the Stenvik Century farm when he purchased 160 acres of land ceded from the Red Lake Reservation in 1907.

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This planting area, nestled among the oak trees on the Stenvik Century Farm, makes use of some relics from the past. Flowers seem to do very well in the antique cast iron bathtub and a recycled commode nearby.



No container goes unused on the Stenvik farm. A wheel barrow makes a handy, portable flower bed for the summer.



One of the original homes on the Stenvik farmstead. This house was razed by fire much to the chagrin of some neighbors who considered the structure a local landmark.

National Farm Safety and Health Week is Sept. 18-24

Each year since 1944, the third week of September has been recognized as National Farm Safety and Health Week. This recognition has been an annual promotion initiated by the National Safety Council (NSC) and has been proclaimed as such by each sitting U.S. President since Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the first document. Over the years, the development and dissemination of National Farm Safety and Health Week materials has shifted to the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety (NECAS). NECAS is the agricultural partner for NSC and has been serving the agricultural family and business community since 1997.

The 2011 theme for National Farm Safety and Health Week is "Safety Counts - Your Community Depends On It". Go to the web site, www.necasag.org for information and public service announcements related to this year's theme. Illinois Fann Bureau developed the theme and logo this year.

For the past few years, there has been an increasing focus on the safety and health issues in agriculture related to tobacco farming, viticulture and enology, and grain production.

The many aspects of wine production from early vineyard growth and nurturing to harvest to the wine production process have established an increased presence in North American agriculture. An emphasis on a culture of safety is vital to the wine production industry. As in the majority of large industries, larger, established wineries have documented safety and health programs.

For many of the smaller vineyards throughout the U.S. and Canada, safety programs are more difficult to develop. An awareness of safety issues related to hand-held tools, presses, ergonomics, ladders, sleep deprivation and weather is crucial to the well-being of workers and crop production. The National Education Center for Agricultural Safety, as well as other agencies, has developed safety programs specific to the wine production industry.

In the U.S., thousands of workers are engaged in the growing and harvesting of tobacco and its products. Ergonomics, proper tools and equipment, appropriate clothing and weather conditions are among the many issues that contribute to the safety and health status of tobacco workers. A major issue each harvest season is green tobacco (nicotine) sickness.

With over 50 grain bin incidents, auger related injuries, PTO incidents, and more than two dozen fatalities in the U.S. in 2010, the grain production industry continues to be one of the most dangerous aspects of crop production. Grain storage units are a familiar site through much of the central regions in North America, with family members of all ages involved in the industry.

As we recognize National Farm Safety and Health Week this September, join us in promoting safe and healthy practices on our farms and ranches across the U.S. and in our neighboring countries as producers continue the harvest season.



Norman and Lorraine Stenvik spend many hours cultivating the annual produce crops in their garden near the horse paddock. They take pride in the fruits and vegetables they harvest each year. Many of the plants are of unusual varieties that produce uncommon results such as elongated, low acid cucumbers, jumbo pumpkins, long and curly string beans, and abundant sweet potatoes.



One of the few remaining photos of the gambrel barn built on the Stenvik Century Farm in the early 1900's.

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New light bulb labeling

With new and more efficient lighting products available for the home or business, consumers can no longer select a light bulb just by its wattage. Understanding the term "lumens" is now the challenge, to help consumers select a lamp replacement that will provide the same illumination level with much lower energy use.

To help in the process, the Federal Trade Commission has ordered manufacturers to include specific data on the lamp's packaging (see sample).

Based on similar labels found on refrigerators and other appliances, this standard listing allows an apples-to-apples comparison between two products. So if a consumer wants to try out a new LED lamp to replace a 60-watt incandescent,

Lighting Facts	
Per Bulb	
Brightness	820 lumens
Estimated Yearly Energy Cost	\$7.49
Based on 3 hrs/day and 11.4 ¢/kWh. Your cost will depend on your rates and use.	
Life in Years	1.4 yrs
Based on 3 hrs/day	
Color Appearance	Warm Cool
2700 K	
Energy Used	60 watts

they will be able to compare labels and see if the LED delivers close to 820 lumens to match that of the incandescent.

The required labeling must appear on products no later January 1, 2012.

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2009 750 Honda Spirit.....\$6,099	2009 550 4x4 EFI.....\$5,799
2010 Honda 750 Shadow.....\$6,499	2009 650-TBX Utility SOLD\$6,299
2009 Honda 1300 VTX-Base.....\$8,999	2009 700 4x4 EFI.....\$6,199
2008 750 Honda Shade SOLD\$5,699	2010 650 4x4 MudPro.....\$6,499
2009 250 Honda Rebel SOLD\$3,999	2010 550 EFI 4x4, Pwr Steering ..\$6,499
	2010 1000 4x4 MudPro.....\$9,999

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2009 366 4x4.....\$4,399
2010 450 EFI 4x4.....\$5,699
2009 550 4x4 EFI.....\$5,799
2009 650-TBX Utility SOLD\$6,299
2009 700 4x4 EFI.....\$6,199
2010 650 4x4 MudPro.....\$6,499
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2009 Honda CRF 100F.....\$2,699\$2,299
2008 Honda CRF 100F.....\$2,499\$2,099

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Three phase line rebuilt

A Red Lake Watershed ditch project in eastern Pennington County required one mile of three phase line to be rebuilt in Star Township. A Red Lake Electric Cooperative construction crew is stringing wire for the new line.



Lineman Troy Schmitz uses a preformed tie to attach the wire to a suspension insulator. The preformed curls of the tie make a double wrap around the tail of the wire holding it to the insulator.



A Red Lake Electric line construction crew remove the old three phase corner pole and terminate and attach wires to the new pole on the east end of the new line.



The Cooperative's construction crew perform work on a "dead-end" pole on the west end of the new line. Dead-end means the wires are cut and terminated on the pole.



Pahlen and Mike Wavra, lead linemen, work to make the final connections on the new three phase corner pole. The pole ends up with several attachments as 12 wires are terminated on the pole.



Alan Cota, left, crew foreman, and Sam Pahlen, apprentice lineman, use web hoists and bulldog grips to pull proper tension on the guy wires attached to the dead-end pole.

Be careful when withdrawing retirement funds

By Doreen Friel

You've spent a lot of time planning your financial future by contributing to a retirement plan. But what do you do when the future arrives? It's important to know the rules around your savings when it comes to withdrawals.

Age isn't just a number! When it comes to pulling money from your retirement plan, it can cost you dearly if you don't play by the rules. The federal government requires you to begin withdrawing money from your plan account by April 1 after you've turned age 70 and a half. And you must withdraw the minimum amount required, called the required minimum distribution or RMD, at that time and once a year thereafter – or you'll have to pay a fee equal to 50 percent of the amount you should have withdrawn, but didn't.

Your withdrawals will be taxable. You'll owe income tax on the money you withdraw. So keep that in mind when deciding how much to withdraw. Generally speaking, the less you withdraw each year – keeping your RMD in mind – the less you'll owe in income taxes each year, and the longer your money will last.

Be sure to designate a beneficiary. Your will does not determine

who will receive the money in your retirement account when you die; your beneficiary designation does. Federal law requires that your beneficiary be your spouse if you are married, unless your spouse consents to a different designation. If you do not name a beneficiary, the individual who does inherit your retirement plan assets may receive less favorable tax treatment on the money in your account.

Your beneficiary must pay income tax on any money received from your account. Knowing this can help you decide how quickly you want to withdraw your money. For example, you may wish to consider the tax effects of withdrawing the money and paying taxes at your income tax rate or potentially leaving more money in your account, which means your beneficiary would have to pay taxes at their income tax rate on any money they receive after your death.

Clearly, rules surrounding withdrawing money from your retirement plan account – both while you are living and after you've passed away – are complex. That's why it's important to consult your financial or tax adviser now. Doing so would enable you to create a distribution strategy that's tailored to your personal situation.

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'96 Ford F250 Super Cab 4x4 T11158B 7.3Ltr. Diesel XLT	\$6,999	'08 Ford Escape 4x4 T11182B XLT, Moonroof, 39k	\$20,999
'97 Ford F150 Super Cab 4x4 T11157B Lariat Pkg, Leather Seats	\$7,499	'07 Ford Edge AWD SEL Plus T11034A Heated Leather Seats, 56k	\$21,499
'02 Chev Trail Blazer LS 4x4 T11172A Cloth Seats	\$7,999	'10 Mercury Milan Premier 4 Dr. B0882 Heated Leather, V6, 25k	\$21,999
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'00 Ford F150 Super Cab 4x4 T11130B XLT, Off Road, V8, Auto, 120k	\$8,999	'09 Ford F150 Super Cab 4x4 T11164A XLT, 5.4L, Trailer Tow, 24k	\$25,999
'02 Ford Expedition XLT 4x4 T11054B 5.4L, Leather Seats, 92k	\$9,999	'07 Ford F150 Super Crew XLT 4x4 T11177A 5.4L, Trailer Tow, 2,900 Miles	\$27,999
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'07 Pontiac Grand Prix 4 Dr. T11134A V6, Cloth Seats, 66k	\$12,799	'11 Ford Taurus Limited B0872 Heated Leather, Sync System, 25k	\$27,999
'05 Pontiac G6 4 Dr. GT B0873A Moonroof, V6, 55k	\$13,599	'08 Lincoln MKX AWD B0887 Heated Leather Seats, 39k	\$30,999
'08 Chev Uplander Ext LT T11174B Power Sliding Doors, DVD, 62k	\$15,999	'10 Ford Edge Limited AWD TB0888 Vista Roof, Heated Leather, 33k	\$30,999
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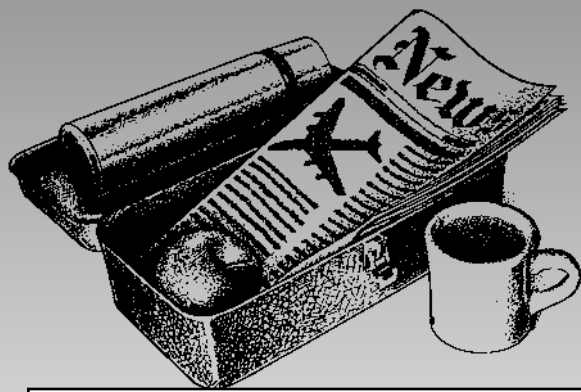
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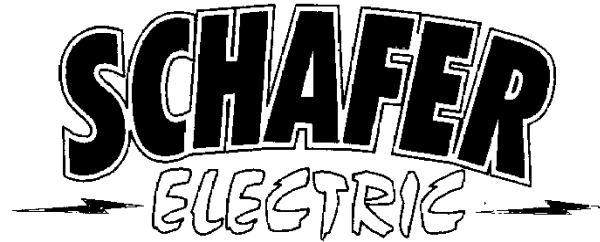
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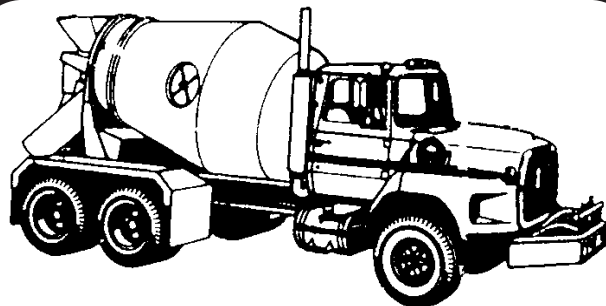


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Auto-Pay is the easiest, most efficient way to make and process your monthly bill payment at Red Lake Electric Cooperative and we want to show our appreciation to the 1,513 members who currently use it. If you are using Auto-Pay or sign up for Auto-Pay by Oct. 5, on Oct. 6 you are automatically entered in the drawing. Questions about Auto-Pay? Give Red Lake Electric Cooperative a call or e-mail redlake@minnkota.com. 1-800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168.

Review the cold weather disconnection law

The cold weather law, which became effective Aug. 1, 1995, provides a guideline for Red Lake Electric Cooperative to use for properly notifying a customer of their delinquent account and determining when electricity can be shut off during the cold weather season (Oct. 15 through April 15).

This law also provides a guideline for customers to follow when their electric service is up for disconnection and what they must do to avoid disconnection of electricity during the cold weather season.

It's important to remember the cold weather rule does not prevent a shutoff of electricity during the cold weather season. Only you, the customer, can prevent a shutoff of electricity from occurring.

Other than paying your bill when it is due, you can prevent a shutoff from occurring by responding to the information RLEC will deliver with each collection notice during the cold weather months. Should you have any questions about the cold weather rule or the shutoff protection information that will be attached to each collection notice, please call RLEC. We want to help you prevent a cold weather shutoff.

COLD WEATHER LAW
216B.097. Cold weather rule, cooperative or municipal utility.

Subdivision 1. **Application; notice to residential customer.**

(a) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a residential customer during the period between October 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all of the following conditions are met:

1. The household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. A municipal utility or cooperative electric association utility may (i) verify income on forms it provides or (ii) obtain verification of income from the local energy assistance provider. A customer is deemed to meet the income requirements of this clause if the customer receives any form of public assistance, including energy assistance, that uses an income eligibility threshold at or below 50 percent of the state median household income;
2. A customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household; and
3. A customer receives referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills.

(b) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must, between August 15 and October 15

each year, notify all residential customers of the provisions of this section.

Subdivision 2. **Notice to residential customers facing disconnection.**

Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the period between Oct. 15 and April 15, a municipal utility or cooperative electric association must provide the following information to a customer:

1. A notice of proposed disconnection;
2. A statement explaining the customer's rights and responsibilities;
3. A list of local energy assistance providers;
4. Forms on which to declare inability to pay; and
5. A statement explaining available time payment plans and other opportunities to secure continued utility service.

Subdivision 3. **Restrictions if disconnection is necessary.**

(a) If a residential customer must be involuntarily disconnected between October 15 and April 15 for failure to comply with subdivision 1, the disconnection must not occur:

1. on a Friday, unless the customer declines to enter into a payment agreement offered that day in person or via personal contact by telephone by a municipal utility or cooperative electric association;
2. on a weekend, holiday or the day before a holiday;
3. when utility offices are closed;
4. after the close of business on a day when disconnection is permitted, unless a field representative of a municipal utility or cooperative electric association who is authorized to enter into a payment agreement, accept payment and continue service, offers a payment agreement to the customer.

Further, the disconnection must not occur until at least 20 days after the notice required in subdivision 2 has been mailed to the customer or 15 days after the notice has been personally delivered to the customer.

(b) If the customer does not respond to a disconnection notice, the customer must not be disconnected until the utility investigates whether the residential unit is actually occupied. If the unit is found to be occupied, the utility must immediately inform the occupant of the provisions of this section. If the unit is unoccupied, the utility must give seven days' written notice of the proposed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider before making a disconnection.

(c) If, prior to the disconnection, a customer appeals a notice of involuntary disconnection, as provided by the utility's established appeal procedure, the utility must not disconnect until the appeal is resolved.

Subdivision 4. **Application to service limiters.** For the purposes of this section, "disconnection" includes a service or load limiter or any device that limits or interrupts electric service in any way.

Important notice for military personnel

Section 1. [325E.028] **UTILITY PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR MILITARY SERVICE PERSONNEL**

Subdivision 1. **Restriction on disconnection; payment schedules.** (a) A municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility must not disconnect the utility service of a residential customer if a member of the household has been issued orders into active duty, for deployment or change in duty station if such a residential customer:

- (1) has a household income below the state median household income or is receiving energy assistance and enters into an agreement with the municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility under which the residential customer pays ten percent of the customer's gross monthly income toward the customer's bill and the residential customer remains reasonably current with those payments; or
- (2) has a household income above the state median household income and enters into an agreement with the municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility establishing a reasonable payment schedule that considers the financial resources of the household and the residential customer remains reasonably current with payments under the payment schedule.

(b) For purpose of this subdivision, "household income" means household income measured after the date of the orders specified in paragraph (a).

Subd. 2. **Annual notice to all customers; inability to pay forms.**

(a) A municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility must notify all residential customers annually of the provisions of this section.

(b) A municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility must provide a form to a residential customer to request the protections of this section upon the residential customer's request.

Subd. 3. **Application to service limiters.** For the purposes of this section, "disconnection" includes a service or load limiter or any device that limits or interrupts electric service in any way.

Subd. 4. **Income verification.** Verification of income may be conducted by the local energy assistance provider or the municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility unless the customer is automatically eligible for protection against disconnection as a recipient of any form of public assistance, including energy assistance that uses income eligibility in an amount at or below the income eligibility in subdivision 1, clause (1).

Subd. 5. **Appeal process.**

(a) The municipal utility, cooperative electric association or public utility shall provide the residential customer with a commission approved written notice of the right to appeal to the commission or other appropriate governing body when the utility and residential customer are unable to agree on the establishment, reasonableness or modification of a payment schedule, provided for by this section. Any appeal must be made within seven working days after the residential customer's receipt of personally served notice, or within ten working days after the utility has deposited first-class mail notice in the United States mail.

(b) The utility shall not disconnect service while a payment schedule is pending appeal or until any appeal involving payment schedules has been determined by the commission.

Subd. 6. **Enforcement.** This section may be enforced pursuant to chapter 216B.

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Your payment will be automatically made for you on the 5th of each month. If the 5th falls on a weekend or holiday, the payment will be made on the next business day. You will continue to receive your monthly energy bill as you have in the past, indicating the amount that will be withdrawn from your bank account. The proof of your payment will appear on your bank statement and your next month's energy bill statement.

Continue to pay your monthly bill until you are notified on your bill that the Auto Pay has been set up for you.

If you have any questions about the Auto Pay please call RLEC at 800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168.

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