



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. 49 – NO. 12

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

SEPTEMBER 2014

Proposed EPA carbon rule could cost millions

EPA extends comment period through Dec. 1

A controversial proposed rule from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) could cost Minnkota Power Cooperative and Red Lake Electric Cooperative millions per year.

On June 2, the EPA released a proposed rule under section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act that will require carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions reductions from existing power plants in 49 states. The rule was published in the Federal Register on June 18, starting a public comment period that extends through Dec. 1, 2014.

“We are pleased that the EPA has extended the comment period,” said Mac McLennan, president and CEO of our whole energy supplier, Minnkota. “We thank the North Dakota congressional delegation for their efforts in pushing the idea of having an extending period to vet this complicated proposed rule.”

The EPA intends to issue a final rule in June 2015, and states will then have one year to develop implementation plans or, if they collaborate on multi-state or regional plans, two years to develop their plan.

Under EPA’s plan, North Dakota must reduce carbon emissions approximately 11 percent by the year 2030.

Minnkota Power initially

estimates that it could cost the Minnkota/Northern Municipal Power Agency (NMPA) Joint System about \$10 million to \$50 million per year to meet the targets in the proposed rule.

But there are many variables and unanswered questions regarding the proposed rule.

The EPA’s proposal is extremely complex and covers more than 1,600 pages, including the rule and supporting technical and legal documents. Fundamentally, the proposal has two basic parts: sets a CO2 intensity target (pounds of CO2 emitted per megawatt-hour of generation) for each state for the year 2030, as well as an “interim goal” applied as an average of the 2020-2029 period, and requires states to create their own plan to achieve the CO2 reduction target set for them.

“The proposed rule seeks to not only cause a fundamental change in the way electricity is generated, but also in how consumers use electricity,” said John Graves, Minnkota environmental manager.

Under the proposed rule, the EPA established each state’s reduction target by analyzing four “Building Blocks,” which are: (1) heat rate efficiencies at existing coal plants; (2) replacing existing coal generation with existing natural gas combined cycle plants; (3) increasing the

use of nuclear and renewable energy; and (4) decreasing electricity consumption by increasing end-user energy efficiency.

Building block 1 relates to physical and operational change at existing coal-based power plants to improve heat rate efficiency by six percent. EPA’s blanket assumption that six percent heat rate efficiency can be achieved at all plants is unrealistic.

Under building block 3, the EPA’s goals are based on keeping some existing nuclear power plants (that are at risk of closing) operating, ensuring that new nuclear plants under construction get finalized, and that more sources of renewable energy are developed. Minnkota has already invested heavily in renewable energy, as wind accounts for about 29 percent of its generation capacity. Minnkota has long-term power purchase agreements for 357,000 kilowatts of wind energy from wind farms near Valley City and Langdon, N.D.

One significant question EPA has left open is whether renewables built in one state, but constructed to serve load in another state, should be counted in the state where the energy is produced or the state where the load is served. North Dakota’s CO2 rate was calculated by the EPA using renewable energy pro-

duced within the state’s borders, which contributed to a lower target rate than other states. Recalculating those numbers to track the renewable generation to load would no doubt result in raising North Dakota’s CO2 rate.

The cost of electricity directly impacts the quality of life in the communities served by electric cooperatives. While the EPA claims that its proposal will raise electricity rates modestly, resulting in lower electricity bills for consumers, this assumption fails to pass the common-sense test.

Here’s what you can do: go to www.action.coop and let the EPA know that you have serious concerns about this proposed rule, and that reliability and affordability must be key considerations. You can customize your message, or you can use the comments provided. Either way, please take a moment to let the EPA know how you feel. The EPA has an obligation to consider all public comments, but they can’t do that if we don’t comment.

Red Lake Electric encourages everyone to visit www.action.coop to submit comments or complete the form and mail to:

Red Lake Electric
PO Box 430
Red Lake Falls, MN 56750



Jennifer Kelley, Red Lake Falls, is the new Administrative Assistant at Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

Kelley joins Red Lake Electric staff

Red Lake Electric Cooperative recently hired Jennifer Kelley of Red Lake Falls as an Administrative Assistant. Jennifer is a graduate of Plummer High School and Northland Community and Technical College with an Associate’s degree. She was employed by Red Lake County Highway Department for the past 12 years.

In this position, Kelley will greet members both on the phone and as they walk through the door. She will also process the daily mail, electronic payments through Red Lake Electric’s Bill4U website, con-

tact new members, organize the Operation Round Up® grant applications for the Trust Board and program the automated meter reading (AMR) devices (4401021.02, Dean Lawrenz) which are installed in our meters.

Kelley and her husband, Jared, live in rural Red Lake Falls with their three daughters: Jenessa, 14; Jalayna, 12 and Jalizah, 10. They are active in sports with their children. Jenny is the secretary for the Red Lake Falls Women of Today and enjoys camping, fishing and hunting.

U.S. Needs an All of the Above Strategy for Affordable and Reliable Electricity

Sign up to tell the EPA to keep coal as key part of U.S. energy mix

FIRST NAME _____ LAST NAME _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

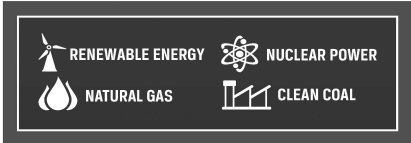
MOBILE PHONE _____
(Sign up for text alerts)

STATE _____

I AM A MEMBER OF _____

I authorize Minnkota Power cooperatives to communicate on my behalf regarding America’s electricity challenges.

SIGNATURE _____



National Preparedness Month: What you can do

If an emergency occurred tomorrow, would you be ready? September is National Preparedness Month. Sponsored by FEMA, National Preparedness Month aims to educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to all types of emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks.

National Preparedness Month is a time to prepare yourself and those in your care for emergencies and disasters, both large scale and smaller local events. We know that emergencies can happen unexpectedly in communities just like yours, to people like you. We’ve seen tornado outbreaks, river floods and flash floods, historic earthquakes, tsunamis, and even water main breaks and power outages that impact communities for days at a time. As commendable as they may be in their profession of assisting those in need, police, fire and rescue may not always be able to reach you quickly in an emergency or disaster.

The most important step you can take in helping your local responders is being able to take care of yourself and those in your care for at least a short period of time following an incident; the more people who are prepared, the quicker the community will recover. You are not helpless in the face of an emergency. With just a few simple steps, you can be a force of nature by knowing your risk, tak-

ing action and being an example in your community.

Know your risk. Emergencies can happen anywhere, at any time. It is important to understand potential risks where you live. What you can do:

1. Bookmark weather.gov to stay informed on severe weather.
2. Learn about wireless emergency alerts, messages that will be sent to your phone during an emergency.

3. Get practical tips on preparing for disaster at ready.gov.

Take action. Make sure that you and your family are prepared for an emergency. Ensure that you can go for at least three days without electricity, water service, access to a supermarket, or other local services. What you can do:

1. Prepare a disaster supply kit with at least three days of food and water.
2. Create a family emergency plan, so that your family knows how to communicate during an emergency.
3. Obtain a NOAA Weather Radio.

Be an example. Be a positive influence on your community by sharing your preparedness story. Let your friends and family know that you’re prepared for an emergency – and that they should be prepared too. Research has shown that many people won’t prepare until they see others doing so. What you can do:

1. Share your preparedness story on Facebook so that friends and family will know what you’ll do in case of disaster.

2. Tell the world you’re prepared on Twitter using hashtag #NATLPREP.

3. Get involved with your local American Red Cross Chapter or train with a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

You don’t know when an emergency might occur. These simple steps will help you be prepared for the worst.

FEMA’s Ready.gov website provides detailed information on what may be most important to you and your family. You can find specific information tailored to specific needs such as people with disabilities, seniors, assisting children, business readiness, and even information for you pets. For more information, see Ready.gov

NOAA is working with FEMA and other agencies to help improve disaster readiness through campaigns such as National Preparedness Month. Through efforts such as the Weather-Ready Nation initiative, NOAA seeks to build community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather events.

Sources: National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce

In this month's Volts and Jolts

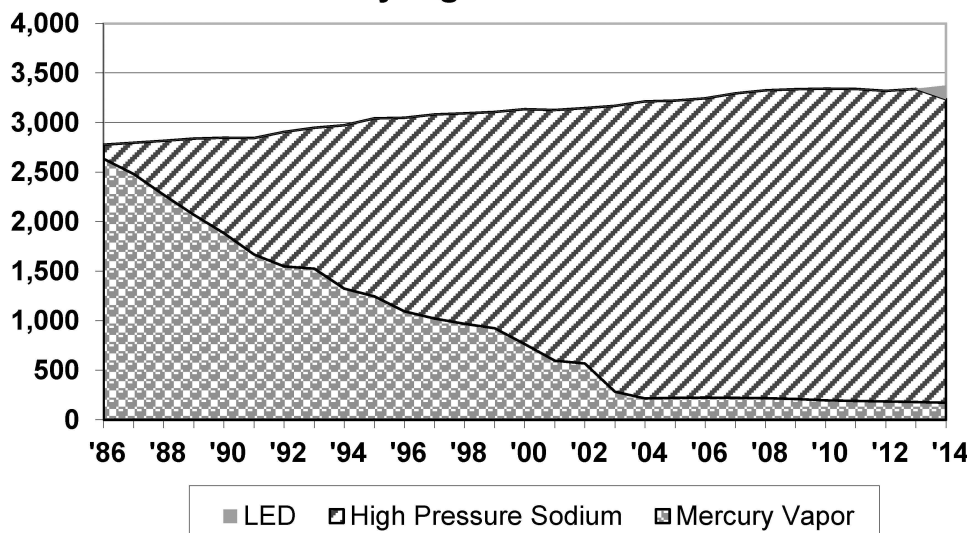
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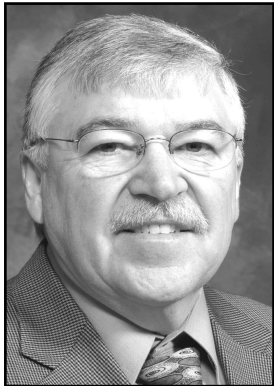
QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

The shorter daylight hours that come with this time of year doesn't mean you have to be in the dark. Red Lake Electric Cooperative has outdoor Security Lighting available for just pennies a night. The monthly \$8 charge includes all costs to operate and maintain the light. If you want to add lighting to your yard or work area, give RLEC a call today. 1-800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168

Red Lake Electric Cooperative Security Lights in Service





Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



An important job well done

I thought it was fitting that the story announcing Minnkota's new transmission line, recently completed, shares space in our Volts and Jolts this month along with the article on National Preparedness month: what can you do.

After all, that is what this transmission line is about; Minnkota being prepared not only today but for many years to come. This new transmission line will help Minnkota continue with their reliable delivery of energy from their generation facilities into the region, thus adding to Red Lake Electric's reliability to deliver that energy from the substation delivery points to your homes and businesses.

It has been an interesting project to follow and hear updates as this line project moved from planning, through construction and finally completion in August. Hearing updates

from those involved, and the obstacles overcame to complete this 250 mile long transmission line, raised my understanding and appreciation of what it takes to have a reliable source of energy to serve our membership.

While my goal here isn't to rehash all the information learned at the monthly Minnkota meetings about the transmission line progress, there was a period early on in the project when I thought just establishing a reasonable route would never be accomplished.

I have to tip my hat to those folks who secured right-of-way easements and the willing landowners who agreed to have the line built on or across their land. Not all land owners were willing to do that and we are grateful to the landowners that were. An interesting note along with that is only 12 acres of land was taken out of agricultural production to build this 250

mile transmission line.

We don't have to look further than last winters' fuel shortages to see what happens when demand exceeds supply. Infrastructure was not adequate to get fuel to suppliers and customers paid a premium for fuel. We see something similar with a shortage of rail service. Coal fired power plants, grain elevators and others that rely on rail service are dealing with inadequate train transportation. The investment by Minnkota in the Center to Grand Forks transmission line is an investment in infrastructure.

Red Lake Electric counts on Minnkota to deliver the energy we need to the substation, and you count on Red Lake Electric to deliver it to your meter. We hope you find some peace of mind in knowing we have the facilities in place to reliably meet you energy needs.



Member Service Department

by Kelli Brateng

Is your heating system ready for winter?

The time of year is fast approaching when we become dependent upon our home's heating system. We depend on our heating system for at least eight months. Because of this dependency, it is important to have our home's heating system operational and in tune.

A large percentage of Red Lake Electric's members make use of fossil fuel (propane, fuel oil and natural gas) for home heating. For some members it is used for the back-up or alternate heating system in conjunction with off-peak electric heat equipment. For other members, fossil fuels are the sole source of home heating. Either way, having the heating system tuned up and operating at its highest effi-

ciency will help you save money.

Last year's fierce winter was a good illustration to make sure your back-up heating system is in working order. We experienced over 300 hours of load control during last years heating season. Some members were not prepared for control time of that degree; whether the back-up heating system was not operating or there was not an adequate supply of fuel.

When experiences like this happen, we receive phone calls from the member asking "How long will you control me?" This is a question Red Lake Electric employees are unable to answer. Minnkota Power Cooperative's Dispatch Center remotely controls the ripple receiver which is located within your home,

garage or shop. Minnkota's dispatcher monitors the systems load to determine when loads should be shed and reinstated. There are several factors that play a role in each peak period and as to how long control will last.

What's in store for the next heating season? No one knows. Predications and estimates can be made but the answers will only be revealed in time. Having and maintaining an adequate and dependable heating system will make it simpler and certainly more comfortable for you and your family.

Call your local HVAC contractor or Red Lake Electric to make sure your heating system is serviced and operational for the upcoming heating season.

When planting trees this fall, choose the “right tree for the right place”

Whether planting trees to beautify your landscape, provide a wind break, or reduce carbon in the environment, Safe Electricity reminds everyone of the importance of planting tall-growing trees safely away from power lines. Seek help in choosing and placing trees and bushes that provide shade, color and screening that won't grow to interfere with the electric supply.

Trees that grow too close to electric lines can create shock and fire hazards as well as power outages. As part of the “Teach Learn Care TLC” campaign, parents and caregivers are urged to teach children to never climb trees near power lines. The program also warns to never trim trees that are close to

power lines—leave that to the professionals.

Tall trees growing near power lines have to be pruned to keep them out of the lines and it is far better to choose lower growing trees that won't interfere with electric service. Before you plant, create a pro-active landscaping plan that utilizes smaller trees and shrubs near power lines and taller trees away from wires and poles.

Ground hugging shrubs and small trees (2807001.01, Clara A. Reiersen) that reach no more than 15 feet in height can be planted near overhead lines; however, trees should never be planted directly under power lines. Japanese Red Maple, Crabapple, Dogwood and Chinese Juniper are some exam-

ples of trees that will not grow too high when they are mature. Trees that mature to a 25- to 45-foot height should be planted no closer than 35 feet from the power pole and lines. Some species of trees in this range are Kwanzan Cherry, Hedge Maple and Eastern Hemlock.

Trees that exceed 45 feet in height should be planted no closer than 45 feet from lines. Trees in this range include American Elm, White Pine, Birch and Sycamore. While fast growing trees will reach a mature height sooner, their wood is softer and they are more susceptible to losing limbs in winds and ice storms, which could be potential causes of outages.

Source: Safe Electricity

Understanding your energy usage

Some consumers do not pay too much attention to their electric bills. Once a month they see a running list of numbers, but they only pay attention to the final cost and not the other details. If you want to reduce your costs, the first step is to better understand your energy usage.

Tracking your energy use starts with your billing statement. Go back through your utility bills to better understand your use of electricity. Identify the kilowatt-hours (kWh) used each month. In looking at your electrical use over the span of a year, you will be able to identify peaks when more energy was used.

With a better understanding of

your energy usage, you can start to discover ways to cut back cost by being more energy efficient. According to the Department of Energy, more than half of your utility bill comes from heating and cooling. You may discover that the peaks in your billing statements coincide with months during which there were greater or more frequent temperature extremes.

To be more energy efficient, turn thermostats down a few degrees in the winter and up in the summer. Dress in layers to stay warm, or use fans to stay cool. You can also save money by adjusting the thermostat when you are away from home.

For all types of home cooling systems, you can reduce energy use by increasing the temperature when you are away. However, home heating is different. If your home has a heat pump, the most efficient option is to keep it constantly set to a moderate temperature.

For other types of home heating systems, you can save money by adjusting the temperature when you are away from home. To discover more ways you can become more energy efficient, visit EnergyEdCouncil.org.

ELECTRIC HEAT EXEMPTION

This is to certify that the primary source of heat for my residence is electricity and I am eligible for the electric heating sales tax exemption as provided by Minnesota State Law. The primary source is the source that supplies more heat than any other source for the largest period of time during the heating season.

Date_____ Account number_____

Social Security Number_____

Signature _____

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

RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc. VOLTS & JOLTS

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AFTER-HOURS OUTAGE PHONE

218-253-2200

NOTICE

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



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).

Recipe Corner



MEXICAN LASAGNA

1 lb. ground beef
1 large can refried beans
1 pkg. flour tortillas
2 pkgs. shredded cheddar or Velveeta Mexican cheese
1 large container cottage cheese
1 onion chopped
1 green pepper (reserve 2 circle slices for decoration)
1 can sliced black olives
2 small (8 oz.) cans tomato sauce
1 large can Hunt's spicy tomato sauce J
pkg. taco seasoning mix
1 head lettuce
Tomatoes, diced
Taco sauce
Sour cream
1 bag taco flavored chips

Brown ground beef in skillet, add taco seasoning mix, chopped onion, green pepper, tomato sauces, one large can water. Simmer until flavors blend. Heat refried beans with some onion and green pepper in a small pan. Add cottage cheese and black olives to the sauce. Place small amount of sauce in bottom of 9 x 13 pan. Place flour tortillas in bottom of pan, overlapping as necessary to cover area completely. Spread 1/3 of refried bean mixture over the tortillas, then 1/3 of the sauce, then sprinkle with shredded Velveeta Mexican cheese. Continue to alternate layers. On top layer sprinkle remaining cheese and arrange pepper slices, diced tomatoes and remaining black olives in a festive pattern. Cover with tinfoil and bake in 350 degree oven for approximately 30 minutes or until cheese is melted and dish is heated through. Serve on bed of lettuce, and top with sour cream and crushed taco flavored chips. Ole!

ZUCCHINI HOT DISH

3 medium zucchini, thinly sliced (2 qts.)
1 large chopped onion
1 1/2 lb. hamburger
1 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
1 - 6 oz. pkg. chicken flavor stuffing
1 cup chopped carrots
1 can chicken soup

Cook zucchini, carrots and onion in salted water until tender, about five minutes, drain and set aside. Brown hamburger, add salt and pepper. Prepare stuffing according to package directions. Spread half of meat in bottom of three quart casserole dish; top with half of stuffing mix. Combine zucchini mixture with soup and sour cream, pour over stuffing. Add remaining meat, top with remaining stuffing. Bake 45-50 minutes at 350°.

PEANUT BUTTER BARS

1/2 cup white sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 cup shortening
4 Hershey bars (or 6 oz. pkg. chocolate chips)
1 egg
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
1/3 cup peanut butter
1 cup oatmeal

Frosting:

1/2 cup powdered sugar
3 to 4 Tbsp. milk
1/4 cup peanut butter
1/2 tsp. vanilla

Combine ingredients in usual manner. Put in greased 9 x 13 pan. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes or until lightly browned. Take bars from oven and sprinkle Hershey bars or chips on top. Drizzle with frosting.

BREAKFAST PIZZA

1 - 8 oz. pkg. of crescent rolls
1 - 8 oz pkg. brown and serve sausage
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
5 slightly beaten eggs
1 cup milk
2 Tbsp. chopped onion
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
1/4 tsp. oregano

Spread dough into greased 9 x 13 pan. Add chopped sausage, then cheddar cheese and pour egg mixture over the top. Sprinkle with mozzarella cheese. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Let stand five minutes before serving.

APPLE CAKE

1/4 cup butter
1 cup flour
1 cup sugar
1 tsp. nutmeg
1 egg
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/4 tsp. salt
1 tsp. soda
1/2 cup nuts
2-1/2 cups diced apples
1 tsp. vanilla
2 Tbsp. hot water

Cream butter and sugar; add egg and mix well. Add dry ingredients. Add remaining ingredients. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes. Serve with sauce.

Rum Sauce:

1/2 cup butter
1/2 cup cream
1/2 cup white sugar

Bring to boil; set aside until lukewarm and add 1/2 tsp. rum flavoring. Pour over each piece of apple cake and serve.

From the Mail Bag

Dear RLEC,

Thank you for your recognition of our outstanding herdmanship during the Pennington County Fair.

**Lydia, Kayla and EmmaRae Nelson,
Nolan Enge and Madelyn Westland
Silverton 4-H Club**

Dear RLEC,

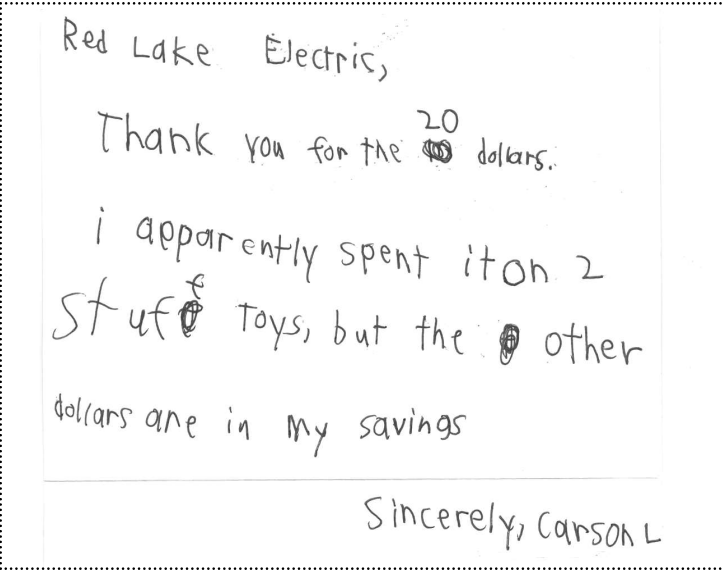
Thank you for sponsoring the rate of gain award at the 2014 Pennington County Fair! I'm taking my steer to the state fair and hope to do well with him. Thanks again.

**Sincerely,
Malena Rupprecht
Silverton 4-H Club**

Dear RLEC,

Thank you for sponsoring the poultry showmanship award at the Pennington County Fair. Your involvement in 4-H is greatly appreciated.

**Thanks,
Highlanding 4-H Club
Poultry Exhibitors**



**Carson Lambert
Garnes Go-Getter
4-H Club**

Harvest season driving tips

The fall harvest season is upon us and drivers can expect to see large farm implements traveling on the roads. Farm implements need additional roadway space, so be prepared to slow down, pull to the side or stop. Drivers in rural areas (3813003.03, Roger A. Rivera) must remain alert to the possibility of encountering slow moving farm machines and be prepared to slow or stop to avoid a rear-end collision or striking a farm machine that is turning into a field or driveway.

Tips for farmers and rural drivers:

- Farm machinery can unexpectedly turn onto a public road from a field or driveway. It is important for everyone's safety to have patience and share the road.
- Farm machinery travels slower than normal traffic, often at speeds of 25 miles per hour or less. Automobile drivers must quickly identify farm equipment and slow down immediately to avoid rear-end crashes.
- Slow moving farm machinery traveling at less than 25 miles per hour are required to display a slow moving vehicle emblem on the back of the

equipment. This is a quickly identifiable sign to other motorists. All lighting should be working properly and be highly visible.

- Slow moving vehicles are required to pull off to the right when three or more vehicles are blocked and cannot pass on the left.

- Machinery that is half on the road and half on the shoulder may suddenly move completely onto the road. Machinery may take up more than one lane to avoid obstacles such as road signs.

Before passing farm machinery:

- Check to be sure that machinery is not turning left. Look for left turn lights or hand signals. If the machinery slows and pulls toward the right side of the road, the operator is likely preparing to make a wide left turn. Likewise, sometimes to make a right turn with wide equipment, the driver must fade to the left.

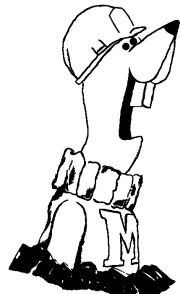
- Determine if the road is wide enough for you and the machinery to safely share.

- Look for roadside obstacles such as mailboxes, bridges, or road signs that may cause the machinery to move to the center of the road.

- Be sure there is adequate distance for you to safely pass.

Source: "Harvest Season Driving Tips," Indiana State Police, www.in.gov

Call Before You Dig



A call to Gopher State will get all utility underground lines and pipes located and marked, FREE of charge, within 48 hours.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative members and area contractors are reminded, if you are planning to dig deeper than one foot, you must call Gopher State One Call – it's the law!

With the arrival of spring, many people have plans for digging and planting projects. To ensure your safety and the safety of others, before digging or planting, call Gopher State One Call.

1-800-252-1166

EAGLE SQUARE

After School Special

Personal Pizza, 2 Bread Stix &
Can of Pop

Monday - Friday
3-4:30 P.M.

\$4.⁹⁹

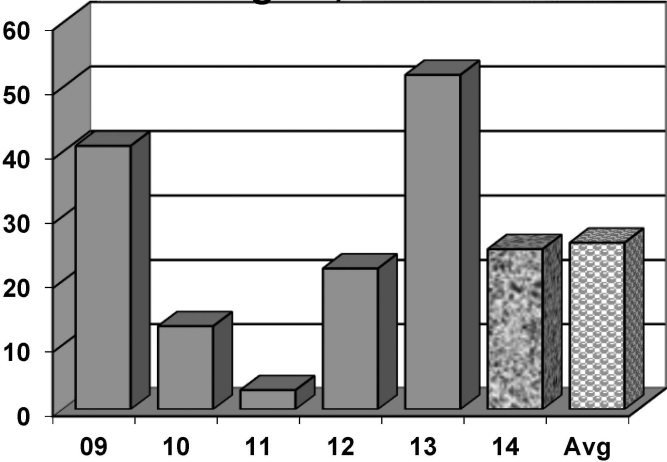


Enjoy a

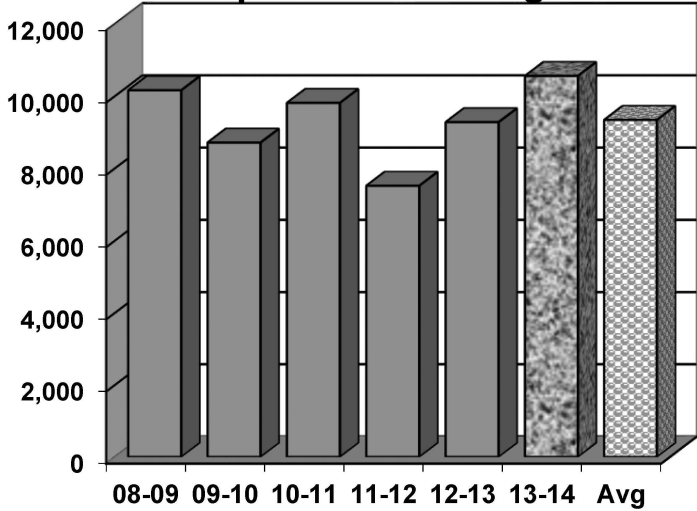


405 Bridge St.
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DEGREE DAYS August, 2014



Year To Date September 1 to August 31



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Operating Report

MONTHLY COMPARISON

	JULY 2013	JULY 2014
Total Revenue	\$ 860,813	\$ 585,943
Total Margins	\$ (20,556)	\$ (374,150)
Cost of Power	\$ 657,100	\$ 715,942
KWH's Purchased.....	\$ 7,806,663	\$ 9,423,674
Capital Credits Paid to Estates ..\$	6,841	14,167
Average outage time in minutes per member	64	125

YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

	JULY 2013	JULY 2014
Total Revenue	\$8,380,889	\$ 8,583,248
Total Margins	\$1,077,721	\$ 756,017
Cost of Power	\$5,720,786	\$ 6,089,959
KWH's Purchased	81,901,006	87,846,276
New Service Connections	17	22
Customers Served.....	5,233	5,282
Capital Credits Paid to Estates ..\$	20,547	\$ 41,711
Average outage time in minutes per member	79	162
Miles of Line		
Overhead	2,324	2,323
Underground.....	256	264

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VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Olsons receive Century Farm status

By Scott DCamp,
Thief River Falls Times
reporter

The Olson farm in Hickory Township was officially recognized as a Century Farm during a ceremony on July 20 at the Pennington County Fair.

John Olson was born in Norway in 1869. He came to the United States with his wife Gunvor (Tveitbakk) and son Ole in 1892 and settled near Fisher. The Olson family moved to Garnes Township, Red Lake County, in 1901 because the area near Fisher wasn't wet enough for trapping. In 1904, they moved again ... this time to Section 7 in Hickory Township, Red Lake County, where they homesteaded.

John and Gunvor had 10 children; Ole, Halvor, Tom, Annie, Arne, Henry, Ben, Johnnie, Emma and Olaf. Both of John and Gunvor's daughters and two sons, Ben and Arne, married and left the family farm. The remaining six brothers stayed on the farm and Olson Bros. Farm was the farm's name for many years. The six Olsons farmed alongside their father until his death in 1940. Gunvor died in 1954.

Over the years, the family continued to acquire farm land and the farm grew close to 4,000 acres at one point. For a

while, all six brothers lived and worked from the original farm site. That began to change in 1925, when the Olsons purchased the Duane Wojnarowski farm.

Ole, Tom, Henry and Olaf stayed at the original homestead, while Halvor and Johnnie moved to the Wojnarowski site. In the 1950s, Tom and Henry moved to the Wojnarowski site and they were joined by Ole in the 1960s.

"Each brother had his own house at the other site, but they still ate together each night," Janice said.

"Interesting group of people," Myles said. "Some things you don't want to put in print. They could be fighting all day but they'd eat together each night."

Of the six brothers who continued working on the family farm, Myles' father Olaf was the only one who married. Olaf married Alverra Brumwell in 1946 and they remained at the original homestead, where Olaf built a house next to the house where he was born.

"He actually died within a hundred feet of where he was born," Myles said.

The six Olson brothers were all farmers and trappers. During the winter months,

some of the brothers would go east to Northome or Kelliher to work in logging camps. Others would stay home to continue trapping and care for the cattle or other livestock.

The Olsons had both dairy and beef operations over the years, with a couple hundred head of cattle; they even had a sheep herd at one point. The family got out of beef farming

in the 1960s. They continued to grow crops until Olaf's retirement from farming in the 1970s.

Since Olaf's retirement, the farmland has either been enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program or rented out. Following Olaf's death in 1999, the Olson farm was split into two properties, with Wayne and Myles.



The Olson Farm in Hickory Township was recognized as a century farm on July 20 during the Pennington County Fair. Pictured clockwise from top are some of the farm's owners: John and Gunvor (Tveitbakk) Olson, who homesteaded in Hickory Township in 1904; Olaf (John's youngest son) and Alverra (Brumwell) Olson; and Myles (Olaf's oldest son), Janice, and their children, Sara and Erick.

Over the past century, farms like the Olson farm have seen a lot of changes. One of the biggest was the size of the typical farm family. Myles noted that it was common for families to have around 10 children because of the amount of manual labor required. As farms became more mechanized, the size of the typical farm family grew smaller.

"As the oldest son, it seemed like once you were old enough to walk, you were behind the wheel of a tractor," Myles joked.

When Myles got out of the military, he already knew he wasn't going to make farming his career. But he still planned to have a hobby farm. He wanted to plant a potato patch and tried two or three plows before finding one that worked well enough to break ground. Then he tried to disc his fresh-

ly turned soil, which was also a battle.

"Everything was broken," Myles said, adding that his father and his uncles would buy a piece of equipment and use it until it was completely shot. "At one point, I counted 13 different Model A's sitting behind a barn. They kept everything for parts."

Janice said she and her husband continue to operate a small hobby farm. "What we have out there now is hobby equipment that's much larger than anything they ever had."

Myles said he has no intentions of selling the farm. It will stay in the family and eventually go to fourth generation owners and children of Myles and Janice, Sara and Erick. Accepting the century farm award were Myles and Janice Olson.



Pictured is a view of the Olson's hobby farm as it stands today nestled within Hickory township.



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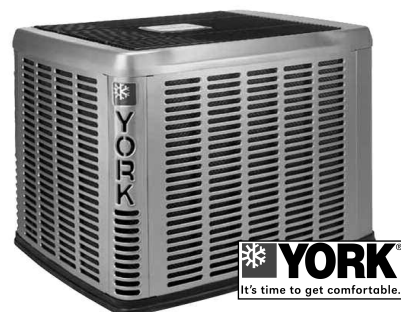
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Childproofing your home

Twelve safety devices to protect your children

Each year, children are injured by hazards in and around the home.

The good news is that the risk of injury can be reduced or prevented by using child-safety devices and reminding older children in the house to re-secure safety devices after disabling them.

Most of these safety devices are easy to find and are relatively inexpensive. You can buy them at hardware stores, baby equipment shops, supermarkets, drug stores, home improvement stores, on the Internet and through mail order catalogs. Safety devices should be sturdy enough to hinder access and yet easy for you to use.

To be effective, they must be properly installed. Follow installation instructions carefully. Remember, too, that no device is completely childproof; determined youngsters have been known to overcome or disable them.

Here are some child safety devices that can help reduce injuries to young children.

1. Use safety latches and locks for cabinets and drawers in kitchens, bathrooms, and

other areas to help prevent poisonings and other injuries. Safety latches and locks on cabinets and drawers can help prevent children from gaining access to medicines, household cleaners, matches, or cigarette lighters, as well as knives and other sharp objects.

Even products with child-resistant packaging should be locked away and kept out of reach. This packaging is not childproof. Look for safety latches and locks that adults can easily install and use, but are sturdy enough to withstand pulls and tugs from children.

2. Use safety gates to help prevent falls down stairs and to keep children from entering rooms and other areas with possible dangers.

Look for safety gates that children cannot dislodge easily, but that adults can open and close without difficulty. For the top of stairs, only use gates that screw to the wall.

Use safety gates that meet current safety standards. Replace older safety gates that have “V” shapes that are large enough to entrap a child’s head and neck.

3. Use door knob covers and door locks to help prevent children from entering rooms and other areas with possible dangers. Door knob covers and door locks can help keep children away from places with hazards.

Be sure the door knob cover is sturdy, and allows a door to be opened quickly by an adult in case of emergency.

4. Use anti-scald devices for faucets and shower heads and set your water heater temperature to 120 degrees Fahrenheit to help prevent burns from hot water. Anti-scald devices for regulating water temperature can help reduce the likelihood of burns.

5. Use smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside each bedroom, and outside sleeping areas to alert you to fires. Smoke alarms are essential safety devices for protection against fire deaths and injuries.

Check smoke alarms once a month to make sure they’re working.

Change batteries at least once a year or consider using 10-year batteries for alarms.

6. Use window guards and safety netting to help prevent

falls from windows, balconies, decks and landings.

Check these safety devices frequently to make sure they are secure and properly installed and maintained. Limit window openings to four inches or less, including the space between the window guard bars. If you have window guards, be sure at least one window in each room can be easily used for escape in a fire. Window screens are not effective for preventing children from falling out of windows.

7. Use corner and edge bumpers to help prevent injuries from falls against sharp edges of furniture and fireplaces. Be sure to look for bumpers that stay securely on furniture or hearth edges.

8. Use outlet covers and outlet plates to help prevent electrocution. Outlet covers and outlet plates can help protect children from electrical shock and possible electrocution.

Be sure outlet protectors cannot be easily removed by children and are large enough so that children cannot choke on them. If you are replacing receptacles, use a tamper-resistant type.

9. Use a Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarm to help prevent CO poisoning. All consumers should install CO alarms near sleeping areas in their homes. Change batteries at least once a year.

10. CPSC recommends using cordless window coverings in homes with young children, in order to help prevent strangulation. Children can wrap window covering cords around their necks or can pull cords that are not clearly visible but are accessible and become entangled in the loops. If you have window blinds from 2000 or earlier and you cannot afford new, cordless window coverings, call the Window Covering Safety Council at 800-506-4636 or visit WindowCoverings.org for a free repair kit. Window blinds that have an inner cord (for raising the slats of the blinds) can be pulled by a child and form a potentially deadly loop. Consumers should immediately repair these types of blinds. Consumers should know that WCSC’s retrofit kits do not address the dangling pull cord hazard associated with many common window blinds.

11. Use anchors to avoid furniture and appliance tip-overs. Furniture, TVs and ranges can tip over and crush young children. Deaths and injuries occur when children climb onto, fall against or pull themselves up on television stands, shelves, bookcases, dressers, desks, chests and ranges. For added security, anchor these products to the floor or attach them to a wall. Free standing ranges and stoves should be installed with anti-tip brackets.

12. Use layers of protection with pools and spas. A barrier completely surrounding the pool or spa including a four-foot tall fence with self-closing, self-latching gates is essential. If the house serves as a side of the barrier, doors heading to the pool should have an alarm or the pool should have a power safety cover. Pool alarms can serve as an additional layer of protection.

Sliding glass doors, with locks that must be re-secured after each use, are not an effective barrier to pools.

Source: United States Consumer Product Safety Commission

Avoiding financial scams

By Lisa Hughes-Daniel

We like to think we can’t be duped by financial scams, but according to a recent survey of adults ages 40 and older, the numbers say otherwise. The survey found that eight in 10 adults received some type of fraudulent offer, and 11 percent lost a substantial amount of money in a scam. Surprisingly, 40 percent of people did not recognize the warning signs of a financial scam.

Although senior citizens are targeted slightly more often by fraudulent schemes, anyone can fall victim. Scams work when people forget an important axiom: What seems too good to be true almost always is. The methods used to part you from your hard-earned money (121012.03, Morris J. Sampson) are varied and always changing, but three of the most common include:

Online “phishing.” An email you receive from what looks like a known, trustworthy website asks you to respond with confidential information such as a credit card number, banking number, personal identification number (PIN) or Social Security number. Clicking links in the email can also install malware, or malicious software, on your computer. Both methods can

aid criminals in stealing your identity.

Phone or in-person solicitations. Callers or visitors may make attractive offers that guarantee you will receive large amounts of money—after you provide sensitive information or pay an up-front fee. Others pose as government officials demanding payments (sometimes with false caller IDs).

Investment offers. Promises of unusually high investment returns with little to no risk should always raise a red flag.

How can you protect yourself? Be diligent in keeping personal and financial information private, and maintain a sense of skepticism when conducting business with new contacts. Here are a few guidelines to keep in mind:

Tread carefully online. If you receive unsolicited emails or click on pop-up windows, understand these can be run by phishers. Never send personal information electronically unless you’re making a purchase from a website you trust or opening a secure online account with an institution you’ve chosen to contact.

Establish who you’re dealing with. Before sharing personal information or making a payment, get a salesper-

son’s name, company name, physical address (not a P.O. Box), phone number and business license number. Research the entity on your own, inspecting its website and checking with the Better Business Bureau.

Take your time. A legitimate business or government agency will not push you into making an immediate decision or payment. Scam artists capitalize on the fear of “missing out,” or when making fake threats, they pressure you into a quick decision.

Be cautious about certain methods of payment. Wiring money is equivalent to sending cash—and it’s often untraceable. Likewise, revealing that a scammer’s check is bad can take weeks. Make purchases with a credit card that allows you to dispute fraudulent charges.

Nothing is free. Beware of door-to-door salespeople in general—including those who offer medical products that are “free” when you provide your Medicare or other insurance information.

For more tips and information on financial fraud, visit: ftc.gov (FTC help line: 877-FTC-HELP) finra.org (investment fraud) ncoa.org (scams targeting seniors).

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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.

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

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US Senator John Hoven spoke at the CGF event held Aug. 18 at the Grand Forks Alerus Center.

Minnkota, dignitaries celebrate completion of historic line

Minnkota Power Cooperative's Center to Grand Forks 345-kV Transmission Line commemoration event was scheduled to be at the Prairie substation southwest of Grand Forks on Aug. 18, but threatening weather forced the event inside.

"The project has been delayed over the years as a result of weather, so it's only fitting today that we have the announcement of its completion inside instead of outside," said Mac McLennan, Minnkota president and CEO. "That's true to form as it relates to this project."

McLennan's comments came during the celebration of the 250-mile, \$353 million line, which is the longest project ever built inside the borders of North Dakota and Minnkota's largest investment in transmission facilities.

Several dignitaries, including U.S. Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., and U.S. Rep. Kevin Cramer, R-N.D., spoke during the event at the Grand Forks Alerus Center.

"Minnkota's new transmission line will help to provide efficient power for our growing communities and economy," Hoeven said. "This project is a good example of the energy infrastructure investments that we need to build a brighter energy future for our state and our nation."

The 250-mile line began service Aug. 7, transporting energy from the Young Station to the Prairie substation and providing grid reliability and long-term growth needs to the northern Red River Valley and beyond.

Other dignitaries who spoke included North Dakota Public

Service Commission Chair Brian Kalk, PSC Commissioner Randy Christmann and Ryan Nagle, representing U.S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp.

Mike Hennes, the project manager for the Center to Grand Forks line, applauded Minnkota workers for supporting and guiding project contractors such as Tri-State Drilling (foundations) and Michels Power (structures and line stringing).

"The Minnkota staff need to be recognized for the extra burden carried by many who this project added to their existing maintenance and construction project workload," Hennes said. "My hat is off to all who helped guide this project to completion."

Russ Okeson, vice chair of the Minnkota board, said the project will not only add stability and reliability to Minnkota's energy system, but will also improve the economic health of the region.

"When we think about the cooperative principles and values that all cooperatives were founded on, this generation can truly be proud of the contribution this project will add to that legacy," Okeson said.

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Any new off-peak electric heating equipment purchased and installed after May 1, 2014 qualifies for an off-peak electric heat incentive.

Members will receive \$20 per kilowatt (kW) for qualifying electric heating equipment with a maximum incentive of \$600. The electric equipment must be part of an off-peak heating system with a qualified backup heating source. The equipment must be hard wired.

Heat pumps may also qualify for the incentive. Air-source heat pumps will receive a \$100 per ton incentive. Ground-source heat pumps will receive a \$200 per ton incentive. Heat pumps do not have to be controlled as part of an off-peak system. Any resistance or strip heat as part of a ground-source heating system must be controlled. The maximum incentive for heat pumps is \$600.

This off-peak electric heat installation incentive is in addition to the conservation incentives offered as part of the Cooperative's Power Savers Program.

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