



# 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**

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RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

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## Managing the energy marketplace

### Power Resources, Low Market Prices to Limit Winter Load Management

In the midst of another cold and snowy winter, members who utilize your cooperative's off-peak electric heating program can expect load management hours to be comparable to the last three years.

Behind ample generation resources and low wholesale power market prices, Minnkota Power Cooperative, our wholesale power provider, is projecting 220-250 hours of load management this winter season. Similar circumstances in recent years have kept load management time near this range.

Even though the demand for power is expected to increase this year, Minnkota has no major generator outages (1217001.01 Janyce Peterson) scheduled and anticipates it will often be able to purchase economical energy to cover peak loads. However, unexpected outages, transmission line constraints and extreme cold weather periods can cause load management hours to increase.

Before employing its load management system, Minnkota first looks to purchase energy from the market. Minnkota participates in the market, which extends throughout the Upper Midwest, to both buy and sell surplus energy. When energy cannot be obtained economically, Minnkota and the associated systems choose to control off-peak electric systems. The load management (2610002.03 Albert C. Kezar) program protects consumers from the volatility of the market and prevents the need to build new power plants just to serve peak loads.

"During high electrical demand times, Minnkota's first option is to purchase power from the market," said Todd Sailer, Minnkota energy supply manager. "However, that energy isn't always at an affordable price. By utilizing load management, Minnkota avoids making costly energy purchases that would force an increase in our regular rates."

### Changing Market

The cost of delivering electricity to your home or business can change in a moment's notice. The decision on whether to use load control or to purchase energy from the market often boils down to a simple case of supply and demand.

"If there is a strong supply of energy in the market, purchasing that energy to meet our peak loads will likely be economical," Sailer



said. "But as consumers use more electricity, the market sees an increase in the number of generators needed to supply that energy. As more generators are brought on line, the price of electricity increases."

In recent years, however, market prices have been much lower than average due to the lingering effects of the economic downturn.

"Average wholesale power market prices remain low due to significant load loss in the market," Sailer said. "This allows us to purchase power much of the time and avoid control."

### Off-Peak Still a Great Value

The off-peak electric heating program is for members who use electricity to heat their homes, while still having a non-electric backup heating source. Consumers continue to heat their homes with their electric heating system, but during periods of peak electric usage, their electric heating is shut off and their backup system is used. Participants in the voluntary program receive a lower power rate for electricity consumed by their heating systems.

"Using a combination of off-peak electric heat and a non-electric backup is still less expensive than heating with straight fuel oil or propane," Sailer said. "Members

who have an adequate, well-maintained backup heating system should not notice a difference in comfort level when their off-peak heating system is controlled."

Millions of dollars have been saved due to the successful operation of Minnkota's load management system over the past 35 years.

"Load management is a vital tool for Minnkota and the associated systems to use to keep wholesale power prices competitive and winter heating bills low for retail consumers," Sailer said.

### Instant Updates

Keeping up to date with the status of load management has never been easier. By signing up for load management alerts, you will receive an e-mail or text message from your cooperative notifying you of the times your system will be placed on load management. To learn more about this free service, please contact your cooperative's member service department.

You can also follow load management online at [www.minnkota.com](http://www.minnkota.com). Click on "Load Management" and your cooperative to view the current state of load control, recent control history and the last switching cycle. Visitors are also able to review the last 10 years of load control.



### Newfolden Fire Department awarded Operation RoundUp grant

Dave Bennett, left, Newfolden Fire Department fire chief, accepts a \$1,000 Operation RoundUp grant from Randy Knutson, Newfolden, Operation RoundUp Trust Board Director. The grant will be used to purchase structure and wildland fire fighting equipment. At their recent meeting, the Trust Board awarded 16 grants to area organizations totalling \$9,800.

## Operation RoundUp grants total \$9,800

The Red Lake Electric Trust board met recently and awarded 16 grants to area non-profit and community organizations that totaled \$9,800. Since its inception in 1993, 635 Operation RoundUp grants totaling \$376 thousand have been gifted to area community organizations.

The Red Lake Electric Trust (6827001.02 Earl Strand) receives money for grants from the Operation RoundUp program administered by the Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Today, 91 percent of Red Lake Electric's members voluntarily "round-up" their monthly bill for the Operation RoundUp program.

The following is a list of organizations awarded Round Up funds to help the disadvantaged:

- Violence Intervention Project of Thief River Falls, \$1,000 for their Umbrella Tree Program that provides supervised child visitations.
- Early Childhood Family Advocate Program, Thief River Falls, \$1,000 to work with at-risk families who have children up to age 5 in Pennington County. The program is designed to break the cycle of child abuse.
- LifeCare Center of Thief River Falls, \$500 to provide positive alternatives to abortion. Money will be used to update materials.
- Thief River Falls Area Food Shelf, \$1,000 to assist those in need with food items.
- Strandquist Area Food Shelf,



\$500 to assist those in need with food items.

Three area emergency service providers were given grants:

- Thief River Falls Fire Department, \$1,000 to help purchase pagers for their volunteer firemen.
- Red Lake Falls Fire Department, \$600 to start on purchase of updated boots for firemen.
- Newfolden Fire Department Relief Association, \$1,000 to purchase firefighting equipment.
- Area youth will benefit from Operation RoundUp grants made to the following organizations:
  - Pennington County 4-H, \$400 to assist with 4-H programs and school enrichment program.
  - Marshall County Social Services, \$500 to purchase Christmas gifts for needy children and food baskets for needy families in Marshall County.
  - Red Lake County Salvation Army, \$500 to purchase Christmas gifts for needy children in Red Lake County.
  - Christmas for Pennington

County, \$500 to purchase Christmas gifts for needy children.

- Thief River Falls and Pennington County Safety Camp, \$500 to be used for Safety Camp which brings children together to learn about safety in a fun and relaxing environment.

- Red Lake County Central Elementary School, Plummer Early Childhood Family Education, \$250 to purchase station prizes, family door prizes and books to give away at the annual health fair.

- Red Lake Falls ECFE, \$300 to be used for station prizes for the annual health and safety camp.

- Pennington County Humane Society, \$250 to help maintain the program for Northwest Minnesota.

The Red Lake Electric Trust Board of Directors determines grants two times per year, in March and September.

Serving on the board are Van Swanson, president, Thief River Falls; Randy Knutson, vice-president, Newfolden; and Patty Mickelson, secretary and treasurer, Oklee; ex-officio directors are Bonnie Christians of Crookston and Roger Johannek of Red Lake Falls, representing Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

Grant applications are available at the Red Lake Electric Cooperative office or by visiting their web site at [www.redlakeelectric.com](http://www.redlakeelectric.com).

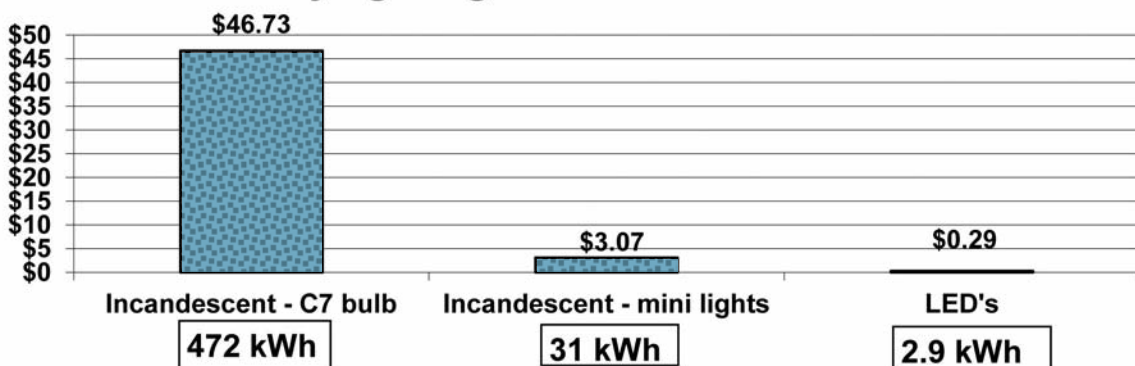
The next deadline for Operation RoundUp grant applications is March 1, 2012.

## QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Consider buying light emitting diode (LED) Christmas lights this year. They are superior to standard bulbs for holiday lighting. LED's use 10 times less energy than mini-lights and 100 times less energy than C-7 bulbs. LED's have an ultra long life - up to 100,000 hours. LED bulbs are good for all weather, unbreakable and water resistant-good for indoors and outdoors. If one LED burns out, the others stay lit. LED's are safe; cool to the touch and fire resistant. Many LED lights can be connected end-to-end without overloading a typical circuit. Although LED lights may cost more than incandescent, they quickly make up the difference in energy savings as indicated by the chart below.

### Holiday lighting - LED's are the best choice!



Cost is based on 300 bulbs, five hours per day for 45 days, using an electrical rate of 9.9 cents per kWh.



## Thanksgiving A Time for Giving Thanks

As we gather with our families and friends for Thanksgiving, it is fitting we reflect on the many blessings for which we can be thankful. We all experience misfortunes but they are few compared with the blessings bestowed on us.

May you have an enjoyable Thanksgiving!  
From Your Friends at Red Lake Electric Cooperative

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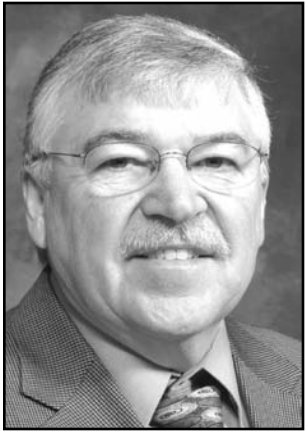
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# Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



## Extra pie and plug in space heaters

Deer hunting season and Thanksgiving Day are two special times for me. The joy of getting together with family and friends for both of these events is something I look forward to. A memory of either occasion is often triggered whenever I hear, see or speak "November."

Hunting has been on my to-do list since I got my firearms safety permit at age 12 and Thanksgiving, well, it has been there forever. So it seems the pounds I have put on by eating a second flavor of pie each Thanksgiving dinner; they appear to have been there forever too. That is one thing about eating, you normally can't fool anyone with how much you eat—it shows. It is similar to the problem your electric cooperative is faces when folks use plug-in portable electric space heaters during Minnkota's system peak load or as a backup heater when off-peak electric systems are controlled—it shows.

How it shows up is on the wholesale power bill we pay to Minnkota Power every month of the year even though these space heaters are used only a short time, usually on the coldest days of the year. Of the 11 cooperative systems served by Minnkota Power, Red Lake Electric currently pays the second highest average rate per kWh. The high average rate is a result of RLEC members placing a high demand on Minnkota's generation and transmission system over the system peak (normally the coldest days of the year) in proportion to the kWhs purchased this past year.

Statistics show that of the past five years, Red Lake Electric Cooperative has paid the highest average power cost two years, second highest cost for two years and third highest average cost for one year. Although RLEC fairs favorably in many operational statistics in comparison to other cooperatives, this

is not one of them.

Electric meters are becoming more technologically advanced, with the ability to measure demand, energy (kWhs), and the time of use. Currently, it is not cost-effective to outfit our entire service area with these advanced meters; we anticipate that in the future this technology will (5301004.02 Gordon Haats) become more affordable. When those types of meters are in place, the use of plug in space heaters as well as all loads and the cost to provide that service will hold all of us more accountable for both the energy (kWhs) we use and the demand we contribute towards our system-wide peak. Today residential peak demands are averaged and recovered through the energy rate for all rate payers in the same rate class.

As we approach another winter and heating season, I ask that you consider a few things:

1. Don't be fooled by the portable space heating ads that

appear annually this time of year. If you want to save money on your monthly energy bill, we are convinced you would be better off to use the \$300 to \$400 some are charging for these plug in heaters, and invest in weatherization improvements to your home.

2. Know that those who use portable electric space heaters, by virtue of the demand they place on the electric system over Minnkota's peaks, affects the energy rate to all RLEC members, not just those members using them.

3. If you plan to use portable electric space heaters this winter, please be mindful of when you use them and avoid their use during peak periods, usually the coldest days of the winter. By doing so, your cooperative will keep its demand charges for wholesale power in check and in turn, the rates charged to members for providing that service – thank you.



Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters will be closed Thursday, November 24 for Thanksgiving.

In case of an electrical outage or emergency, call the after-hour phone number, 218-253-2200.

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

## From the Mail Bag

### Dear Red Lake Electric Trust:

Thank you very much for granting the LifeCare Pregnancy Resource Center \$500 toward our renovation costs. The Center has received bids and construction will be underway shortly. The additional space will help serve our clients more effectively.

Blessings,  
Roxanne Zerwas  
Thief River Falls

### Dear Red Lake Electric Trust Board of Directors and customers of Red Lake Electric Operation RoundUp :

Thank you for the grant money of \$1,000. This money will be used to replace pagers that are no longer repairable carried by our firefighters. We realize you receive many requests for your grant money and we feel very fortunate to be one of the recipients of this grant and all the grants and support we've received in the past. Thank you again.

Sincerely,  
Barry Newton  
Fire Department  
Thief River Falls

### Dear RLEC:

Thank you for the awesome grinder, it works great. I have already used it. Thanks again.

Matthew Barth  
Kratka 4-H Club  
Thief River Falls

### Dear Red Lake Electric Trust:

Thank you so much for the \$1,000 grant for our Children's Visitation Center. The funds will be used, as our application stipulated, to operate the center including staffing, supplies and maintenance. We know your board had many requests to consider and we greatly appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,  
Sandi Bentley  
Violence Intervention Project  
Thief River Falls

### Dear Roger Johanneck:

On behalf of the Thief River Falls and Pennington County Safety Camp Committee, I would like to thank you and the Board of Directors for the continued financial support that you give to our Safety Camp through your Operation RoundUp program.

Your generosity will continue to be used toward safety education for 120 second and third graders in June of 2012. With financial support from organizations such as yours, it will be possible to once again conduct this camp to teach children the importance of safety that could one day save their lives.

Sincerely,  
Madelyn Vigen  
Thief River Falls



## Report from the Office

by Shirley Bregier

Each fall as the temperatures drop and our electric heat starts heating our homes we here at Red Lake Electric Cooperative start watching the off peak meter usages more closely.

After sitting idle all summer the automated meter reading device (turtle) doesn't always start reporting kWh usage. Some off peak systems are used very little so even though we have many tests in place internally it can be very hard for us to detect a faulty off peak reading. If you are using your off peak system this is a good time to compare your meter reading with the reading

on your electric bill. Most off peak meters are in the home or garage so you don't even have to venture out in the cold to do this. When you're off peak turtle doesn't report a reading you are being charged the full rate instead of the reduced rate, meaning your electric bill is higher than it needs to be. If you notice that your electric bill is not showing usage for your off peak meter or your (442009.02 Lee and Karen Rolland) reading is different than what shows on your electric bill, please phone or e-mail us and we will get the turtle checked out and get the problem solved. Please keep

in mind that the reading on your electric bill is taken on the 10th of each month.

When you heat your home with electric heat and don't have an off peak heating system this is a good time to check your electric bill for sales tax. During the months of November through April you will not be charged sales tax as long as you have filed an exemption form with RLEC. If you have sales tax charged to your electric bill, please contact our office or go to the billing information on [www.redlakeelectric.com](http://www.redlakeelectric.com), fill out the form and send it to our office. If you have an off peak system you are not charged sales tax on that portion of your electric bill.

If you haven't already done so, please take a few minutes to go to [www.stopEPAnd.com](http://www.stopEPAnd.com) and tell EPA a federal takeover is not what is good for Red Lake Electric mem-

bers. The cutoff date to do this is November 21st so we need to act now! There is a link to this on our web site also. If you don't have a computer or access to the internet please contact RLEC and we will provide you with letters and information.

As the year comes to an end, we think about all we are grateful for. Our relationship with you is one thing we treasure. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. We wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving and may the holiday season fill your heart with joy.

## Mission Statement

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



Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

After-Hours Outage  
Phone 218-253-2200



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 \$27 to \$35 month  
April-December . . . . .9.5¢ Kwh  
January-March . . . . .9.9¢ Kwh  
Multiphase users add \$22/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: high pressure sodium, \$8/month; mercury vapor, \$9/month; water heater flat credit, \$7/month (January-April billing); off-peak equipment charge, \$5.50/month per heat meter; off-peak energy rate: 5.5¢/kWh long-term control, 7.5¢/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

### Giant Snowball Cake

1 envelope unflavored gelatin  
1/4 c. cold water  
1/2 c. boiling water  
1 c. sugar  
1 c. orange juice  
1/4 c. lemon or lime juice  
2 c. whipping cream, divided  
1 angel food cake (12 oz.), cut into cubes (10 c.)  
1 c. flaked coconut

In a bowl, sprinkle gelatin over cold water; let stand for 1 minute. Add boiling water; stir until gelatin is dissolved. Add sugar and juices; stir until sugar is dissolved. Refrigerate until partially thickened, about 2 hours. Beat 1 cup cream until stiff peaks form; fold into gelatin mixture. Line a 4-quart round bowl with plastic wrap. Spoon about 1 cup whipped cream mixture into bowl. Alternate layers of cake and whipped cream mixture until bowl is filled, ending with cream mixture. Refrigerate for at least 3 hours. Unmold onto a serving plate. Whip remaining cream; frost cake. Sprinkle with coconut. Yield: 16 servings.

### Easy Apple Betty

10 c. sliced peeled tart apples (about 3 lbs.)  
1/4 c. unsweetened apple juice  
1-3/4 c. crushed oatmeal cookies (about 18)  
1/4 c. margarine, melted  
1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon

Toss the apples and apple juice; arrange half in a 13-inch by 9-inch by 2-inch baking dish coated with non-stick cooking spray. Combine the cookie crumbs, margarine and cinnamon; sprinkle half over the apples. Repeat layers. Bake at 375 degrees for 40 to 45 minutes or until apples are tender and topping is golden brown. Yield: 12 servings.

### Creamed Turkey Over Rice

1 medium onion, chopped  
1/2 c. chopped celery  
1/4 c. butter or margarine  
1/4 c. all-purpose flour  
1-1/2 c. chicken broth  
2 c. cubed cooked turkey  
1 c. milk  
1/2 c. cubed Swiss cheese  
1 Tbsp. diced pimientos  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. pepper  
1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg  
Hot long grain and wild rice

In a skillet, saute onion and celery in butter until tender. Stir in flour until blended. Gradually stir in broth. Bring to a boil; boil and stir for 2 minutes. Reduce heat; stir in turkey, milk, cheese, pimientos, salt, pepper and nutmeg. Cook until cheese is melted and mixture is heated through. Serve over rice. Yield: 4 servings.

### Turkey Potpie

1 can (10-3/4 oz.) condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted  
1 can (5 oz.) evaporated milk  
1/4 c. minced fresh parsley or 1 Tbsp. dried parsley flakes  
1/2 tsp. dried Thyme  
1 pkg. (10 oz.) frozen mixed vegetables, thawed  
3 c. cubed cooked turkey  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. pepper

Crust:  
3/4 c. instant mashed potato flakes  
3/4 c. all-purpose flour  
1/4 c. grated Parmesan cheese  
1/3 c. cold butter or margarine  
1/4 c. ice water  
Half-and-half cream

In a bowl, combine the first four ingredients. Stir in vegetables, turkey, salt and pepper. Spoon into a greased 11-inch by 7-inch by 2-inch baking dish. For crust, combine potato flakes, flour and Parmesan in a bowl; cut in butter until crumbly. Add water, 1 tablespoon at a time, tossing lightly with a fork until the dough forms a ball. On a lightly floured surface, roll the dough to fit baking dish. Cut vents in crust, using a small tree or star cutter if desired. Place over filling; flute edges. Brush pastry with cream. Bake at 400 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes or until golden brown. If necessary, cover edges of crust with foil to prevent over-browning. Yield: 6 servings.

### Sweet-as-Sun Corn Bread

1 large egg  
1/4 c. unsweetened coconut milk  
3 Tbsp. vegetable oil  
1/2 c. milk  
1/2 c. flour  
3/4 c. corn meal  
3 tsp. baking powder  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1/3 tsp. cinnamon  
1/4 tsp. nutmeg  
1/3 c. golden raisins  
1/3 c. grated coconut

Preheat oven to 425 degrees and grease a 6-inch loaf or baking pan. In a medium-size bowl, beat the egg until golden, then add the coconut milk, oil, milk and flour. Stir until well mixed. In a large bowl, blend together the dry ingredients. Add the wet ingredients and stir until you've got a thick, smooth batter. Pour the batter into the greased pan and bake in the middle of the oven until golden on top, about 20 to 25 minutes. Cut into pieces and serve warm.

### Pineapple Layer Cake

1/2 c. shortening  
1-2/3 c. sugar  
3 egg yolks  
1 egg  
2-1/2 c. cake flour  
4 tsp. baking powder  
1 tsp. salt  
1-1/4 c. buttermilk  
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

Filling:  
1/2 c. sugar  
3 Tbsp. cornstarch  
1/2 tsp. salt  
1 can (8 oz.) crushed pineapple  
1 Tbsp. butter or margarine  
1 tsp. lemon juice

Seven-Minute Frosting:  
1-1/2 c. sugar  
2 egg whites  
1/3 c. water  
1/4 tsp. cream of tartar  
1 tsp. vanilla extract

In a mixing bowl, cream shortening and sugar. Add egg yolks and egg, one at a time, beating well after each. Combine flour, baking powder and salt; add to the creamed mixture alternately with buttermilk. Beat in vanilla. Pour into two greased and floured 9-inch round cake pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes; remove from pans to wire racks.

In a saucepan, combine sugar, cornstarch and salt. Drain pineapple, reserving juice. Add pineapple to pan. Add water to juice to measure 3/4 cup; pour into pan and mix well. Bring to a boil over medium heat; cook and stir for 2 minutes. Add butter and lemon juice. Cool completely.

For frosting, in a heavy saucepan or double boiler, combine sugar, egg whites, water and cream of tartar. With a portable mixer, beat mixture on low speed over low heat until frosting reaches 160 degrees, about 8 to 10 minutes. Pour into a mixing bowl; add vanilla. Beat on high speed until frosting forms stiff peaks, about 7 minutes; set frosting aside.

Set aside a third of the filling. Spread remaining filling between cake layers. Spread reserved filling in a 4-inch circle in the center of top layer. Frost the sides of cake and around the filling on top. Yield: 12 servings.

## Top dairy herds for August DHIA

Randy Rasmussen, supervisor of the Red Lake-Pennington DHIA, put the following herds at top 10 in the association for August.

Name	Cows	% in milk	lbs. milk	test	lbs. fat	protein	lbs. protein
Northstar Dairy LLC 3X	1079	89	74	3.3	2.4	3.0	2.2
Walter Bros Farm	358	89	72	3.5	2.5	2.9	2.1
Wayra Dairy 3X	284	91	72	3.4	2.4	2.9	2.1
Spring Prairie Colony	378	86	70	3.5	2.4	3.0	2.1
Beyer Brothers Farm	73	86	61	3.4	2.1	3.0	1.8
CB Farms LLC	48	96	58	3.5	2.0	3.0	1.7
Robert & Terri Dahlen	53	85	57	3.2	1.8	2.9	1.7
Bly Dairy Inc.	268	85	55	3.9	2.2	3.0	1.7
Goodvue Ayr Farms	47	89	52	3.5	1.8	3.0	1.6
Mark Gladen	85	87	51	3.4	1.7	2.9	1.5

The herd averages are affected by the number of dry cows in the herd. The amount of milk or butterfat is averaged out over all the cows. This gives the farmer a record of the earning power of the herd for the month. If too many cows are included in the herd, then the average for the month may be low, even though the cow that is milking produces a lot of milk.

## Top dairy herds for September DHIA

Randy Rasmussen, supervisor of the Red Lake-Pennington DHIA, put the following herds at top 10 in the association for September.

Name	Cows	% in milk	lbs. milk	test	lbs. fat	protein	lbs. protein
Northstar Dairy LLC 3X	1117	90	77	3.3	2.5	3.0	2.3
Walter Bros Farm	357	92	74	3.7	2.7	3.0	2.2
Spring Prairie Colony	374	86	71	3.6	2.5	3.1	2.2
Wayra Dairy 3X	282	91	67	3.7	2.5	3.0	2.0
Beyer Brothers Farm	73	88	64	3.4	2.2	3.1	2.0
Amundson Dairy	61	95	64	3.4	2.2	3.1	2.0
Robert & Terri Dahlen	55	89	58	3.4	2.0	3.1	1.8
Tony Gerardy	43	100	54	3.4	1.8	2.8	1.5
Cb Farms LLC	48	94	51	3.6	1.8	3.0	1.5
Goodvue Ayr Farm	50	92	49	3.5	1.7	3.1	1.5

The herd averages are affected by the number of dry cows in the herd. The amount of milk or butterfat is averaged out over all the cows. This gives the farmer a record of the earning power of the herd for the month. If too many cows are included in the herd, then the average for the month may be low, even though the cow that is milking produces a lot of milk.

## Top dairy herds for October DHIA

Randy Rasmussen, supervisor of the Red Lake-Pennington DHIA, put the following herds at top 10 in the association for October.

Name	Cows	% in milk	lbs. milk	test	lbs. fat	protein	lbs. protein
Northstar Dairy LLC 3X	1123	90	76	3.4	2.6	3.1	2.3
Spring Prairie Colony	368	88	71	3.8	2.7	3.2	2.3
Walter Bros Farm	348	90	71	3.7	2.6	3.1	2.2
Wayra Dairy 3X	276	85	66	3.7	2.5	3.0	2.0
Beyer Brothers Farm	69	91	65	3.7	2.4	3.1	2.0
Amundson Dairy	60	93	63	3.5	2.2	3.3	2.1
Robert & Terri Dahlen	55	84	56	3.4	1.9	3.1	1.7
CB Farms LLC	49	96	50	3.6	1.8	3.2	1.6
Tony Gerardy	44	100	50	3.6	1.8	3.0	1.5
Schafer Farm	80	89	49	3.9	1.9	3.4	1.7

The herd averages are affected by the number of dry cows in the herd. The amount of milk or butterfat is averaged out over all the cows. This gives the farmer a record of the earning power of the herd for the month. If too many cows are included in the herd, then the average for the month may be low, even though the cow that is milking produces a lot of milk.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Operating Report

MONTHLY COMPARISON

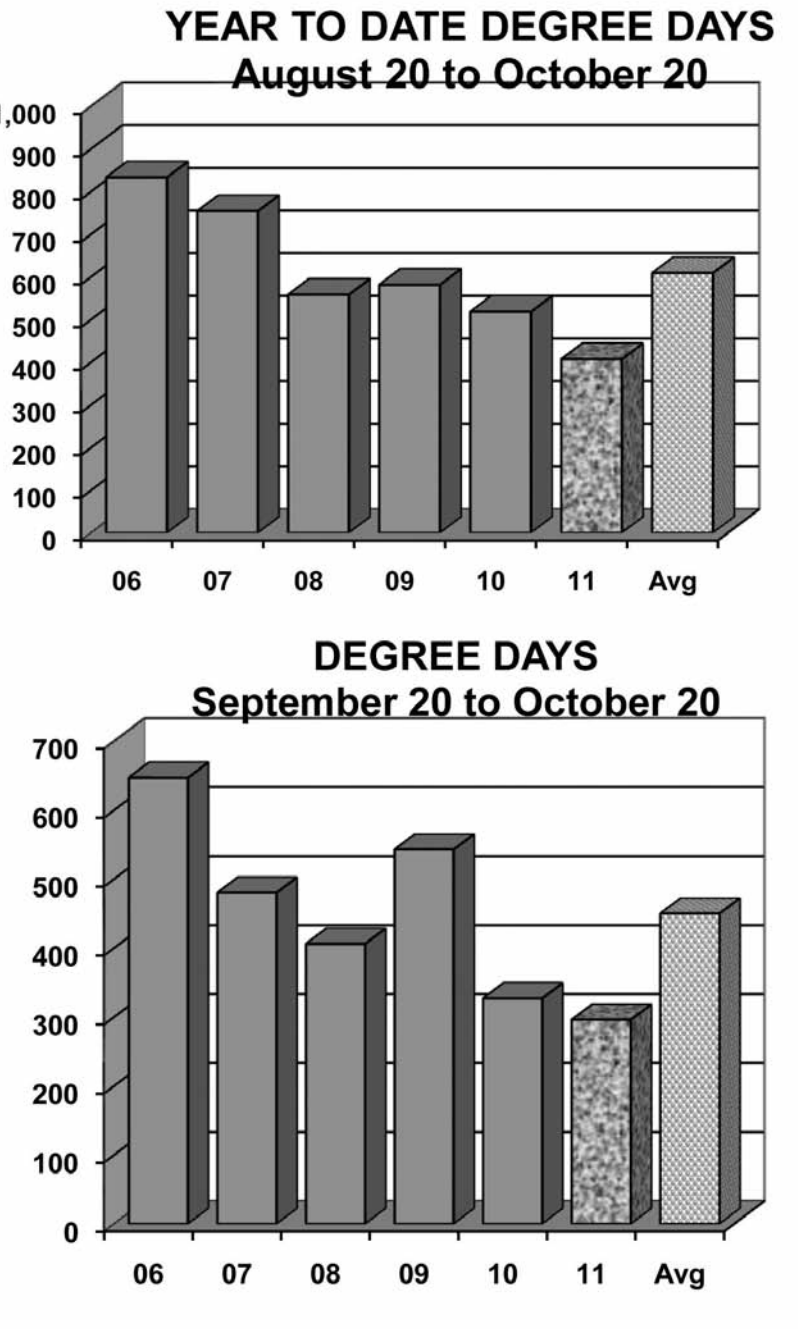
	SEPTEMBER 2010	SEPTEMBER 2011
Total Revenue	\$ 839,152	\$ 915,309
Total Margins	\$ (51,142)	\$ (102,664)
Cost of Power	\$ 566,986	\$ 753,382
KWH's Purchased	9,253,276	9,255,124
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 8,385	\$ 4,952

YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

	SEPTEMBER 2010	SEPTEMBER 2011
Total Revenue	\$ 8,292,836	\$ 9,480,709
Total Margins	\$ 542,276	\$ 142,697
Cost of Power	\$ 5,592,822	\$ 7,038,510
KWH's Purchased	100,841,769	104,811,431
New Service Connections	37	46
Customers Served	5,206	5,213
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 66,500	\$ 70,730
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.



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VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Hutchinson Transfer and Safe-Key Storage have historic links to Thief River Falls

Shoveling coal at the age of fifteen is only one of the many memories Von Hutchinson likes to share about his lifetime involvement with a Thief River Falls based company once owned by his parents.

Hutchinson Transfer was born from what was once known as O'Hara Fuel & Transfer that operated in the area delivering ice taken from the Red Lake River to homes in the summertime and delivering coal in the winter. They also provided moving services and filled many other trucking needs.

Local trucking services have evolved over time to meet new demands and markets such as commodities and freight. There was a period of time when distributing large, steel shipping containers either filled with finished products or empty and finding their way back to the shipping ports was an everyday task that involved many trucks. Hutchinson Transfer would dispatch its trucks far and wide to get the containers where they needed to go as they approached local destinations.

Always a part of the moving and transfer business is providing storage. Safe-Key Storage has been in operation along-side Hutchinson transfer from the beginning. With 125 units ranging in size from 5 ft. x 10 ft. to 8 ft. x 20 ft., the storage business involves long term and short term secure storage for customers who have more belongings than places to put them or have something special that needs safe keeping like a car, boat, RV, valuable furniture or items between homes.

Although the storage business has been steady over the years, Von did note that during times of expansion by area businesses is when he realizes a noticeable increase in transitional storage rented by people moving to the area and lacking an immediate place to use all of their belongings.

Von Hutchinson stands next to a van body bearing the name of the company he owns and operates that was once part of O'Hara Fuel and Transfer. Hutchinson worked for the company previously owned by his parents until he purchased it approximately five years ago.

When asked about any parallels between reality television shows like "Storage Wars" and real-life storage operations, he admits that there are more units that are abandoned than a person would think. These units are in fact auctioned off to the highest bidder as seen on TV but there isn't as much hidden treasure as we are lead to believe. "Most people know what they are leaving behind when they decide to default on the contract.

Income from an auction doesn't come close to the expenses and paperwork involved in foreclosing on the contract and setting up for the auction. I'd much rather get the rental fee or have the customer vacate and end the contract. However, you never know what is in there or why it was abandoned." and so Von invites the public to come to the auctions and look for bargains.

One of the most memorable items he has stored in the past was a Dodge Viper that was in perfect shape and, according to the owner, was rated at 1000 horse power. Needless to say, that customer never missed a payment.

Approximately five years ago, Von decided to continue the tradition of providing transfer and moving services to the Thief River Falls area and keeps himself busy operating the Safe-Key storage facility as well.

He purchased the going concern from his mother and father who had been operating the endeavor for thirteen years. The family had been involved in the operation for

many years prior when it was still a part of O'Hara Fuel and Transfer, also known as O'Hara Fuel and Ice.

One of the challenges involved in the moving business is the high amount of regulation. According to Von it is much more regulated than any other form of trucking and requires the publication of a tariff.

A moving tariff is a regulation that the federal government has placed on moving companies. It is a list of every charge that a mover can charge a customer for any service. This will include provisions, rates, rules and classifications. "It took a lot of effort to get that together and be accepted by the government." added Hutchinson.

Von takes the calls and sets up moving days for his customers who are subject to scheduling and the availability of workers. He noted that many customers try major moves themselves only to realize just how much work it is not only to move your possessions but to do it in a way that prevents damage. "That's why it's better to hire professionals." He went on to say that the money saved by using friends isn't worth the damage that usually occurs, the strained relationships that may result or the large amount if time it takes to do it right.

He plans on continuing the enterprise and enjoys working with his customers in the moving business for as long as he is able to physically do the work. Von anticipates that the storage end of the business should work well for him well into eventual retirement years. With the decades of hands-on work keeping up the facility and the fleet vehicles starting from age fifteen, Hutchinson admits that he has no difficulty in keeping busy every day taking care of scheduling, maintaining the facility, vehicles and equipment and providing services.

He spends as much time as he can fishing when he is not at the facility. Much of it with his parents at their cabin on Lake of the Woods where he can enjoy the sport all year around.

Safe-Key Storage of Thief River Falls is owned and operated by Von Hutchinson, a lifelong resident of the area.

Safe-Key Storage provides individual secure storage rental units that range in size from 5ft. x 10ft. to 8ft. x 20ft..

Safe-Key Storage is a 125 unit self-storage facility West of Thief River Falls and owned by Von Hutchinson. The storage complex is comprised of units ranging in size from 5ft. x 10ft. to 8ft x 20ft as well as semi trailer boxes and steel shipping containers. Customers pay a rental fee on individual, secure units and are allowed to come and go as needed to store or retrieve their belongings.

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# Garage door safety: an open and shut case

**By Kelly Trapnell**  
Try this riddle: What weighs 600 pounds, deters intruders, and goes up or down at the push of a button? It's your automatic garage door, the largest moving piece of equipment in many homes.  
Automatic garage doors may be a routine part of leaving and arriving home, but you should be aware of the potential for injury. Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., recommends these tips to make safety an open and shut case when it comes to your home's garage:  
• Always keep automatic garage doors fully open or fully closed. Some folks may leave a small opening at the bottom for pets to get in and out for food or shade. But a small opening could also be an invitation for a child to try to crawl through and get stuck. Another push of the button could send the heavy door down—causing injury—instead of bringing the door up when trying to free anyone stuck underneath. If you encounter someone stuck in an automatic door, call your local fire department.  
• Read instructions on how to operate and maintain your garage door properly. Check your automatic door monthly to be sure safety precautions are working. Many garage doors boast a safety feature that triggers an automatic reversal if anything is encountered while closing. To check, place a 1.5-inch object (like a flat 2x4) in the path of the door to make sure the door correctly reverses when contact is made. Instructions should also advise on maintaining a properly balanced door. Call a qualified repair company for service or maintenance.  
• Do not allow children to operate a garage door. It may seem like a harmless, simple task to allow children to push the garage opener. But activating heavy equipment should be taken seriously.  
• Avoid walking under a door that is opening



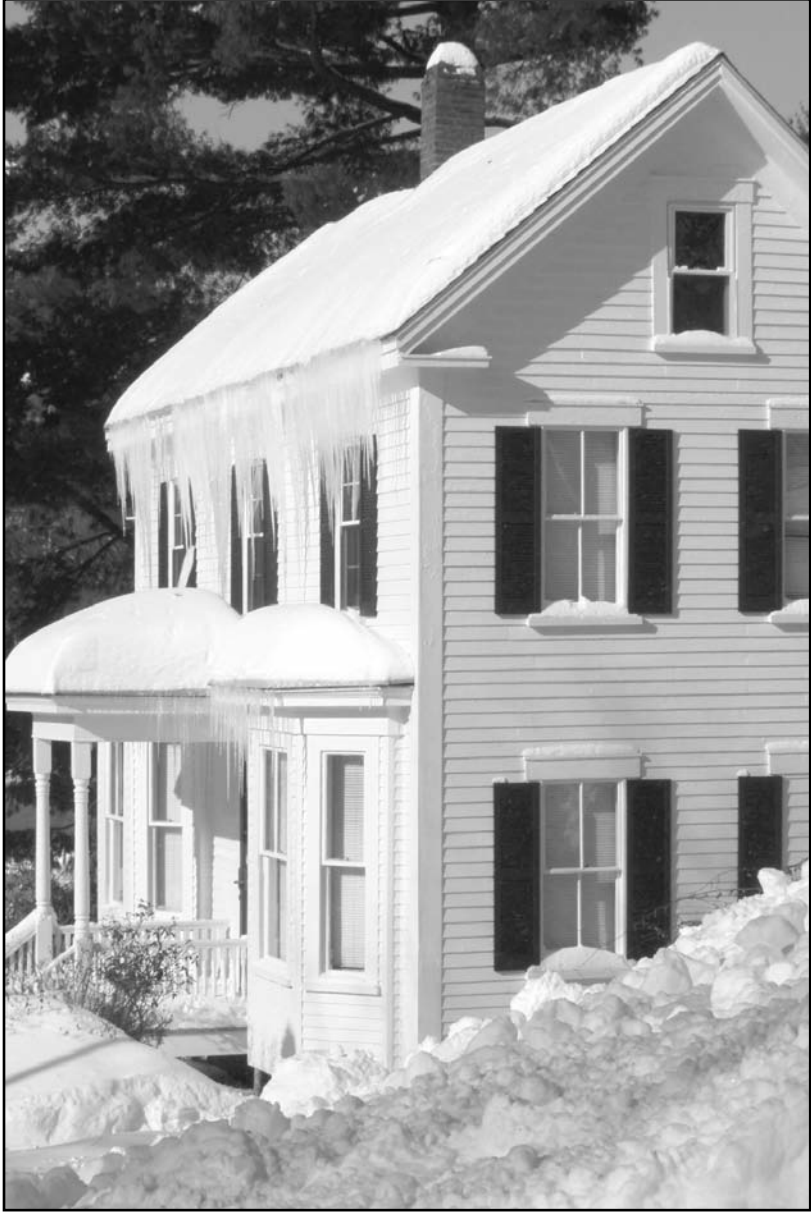
Garage doors add convenience and security to a home, but should be routinely inspected.

or closing. You never know when a malfunction may take place. Steer clear of a moving door.  
• Know when and how to use the emergency release. You'll find a cord with a handle hanging along the track of your garage door. Always use caution when using this release, and only use it when the door is fully closed.  
An automatic garage door opener is a com-

mon convenience powered by electricity. Just as electricity demands safety and respect, so does the equipment it operates.  
*Source: Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.*  
*Kelly Trapnell writes on writes on safety issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.*

# Practical tips to saving energy this winter

The largest contributors to your monthly residential electric bill are likely any pieces of equipment or appliances that heat or cool. Therefore, to make the largest reduction on your energy use, pay attention to these items first.  
**Spare the portable electric heaters.** Contrary to advertisements, using portable electric space heaters, of any brand or style, will not reduce your heating costs. For the most part, these heaters will add to your heating costs and certainly will add to your electric bill.  
The use of portable electric heaters defeats the cooperatives load management program creating short term, high demands for electricity resulting in higher costs per kilowatt-hour.  
**Regularly replace furnace air filters.** If you have a forced air heating system, be sure to follow the recommended maintenance schedule. Replacing a dirty air filter will reduce the amount of electricity needed to run a blower motor.  
**Reduce water use.** Install water flow restrictors and aerators in sink faucets. These measures can save you money by reducing water use, including hot water.  
**Seal off unused areas.** Storage areas represent a good place to start. Don't heat or cool these areas.  
**Reduce lighting expenses.** Turn lights off when they're not in use. Compact fluorescent lighting is the most cost effective, efficient lighting on the market today. These bulbs use 70% less energy and last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Several wattage sizes are available to fit any of your lighting needs.  
**Turn off equipment when not in use.** Don't underestimate the energy savings you can get by turning off unused televisions, home entertainment systems, computers, and other equipment with "instant-on" features.  
**Refrigeration equipment needs routine maintenance.** When dust accumulates on the heat exchanger coils, it creates an insulating



layer that will reduce the operating efficiency of the refrigerator or freezer. Vacuum the coils regularly.  
**Seal heating and cooling ductwork.** Leakage from areas such as joints, elbows and connections can be substantial. This is especially costly if the ductwork is situated through unheated spaces such as attics, basements or crawl spaces. Use duct tape or caulk to seal ductwork.

**Don't heat the outdoors.** Keep exterior doors closed as much as possible. Block and insulate unneeded windows and other openings. Aside from the important security benefit, covering unneeded windows and doors can greatly reduce energy losses.  
**Reduce the hot water temperature.** Reducing the temperature on your water heater thermostat can decrease heat loss from your tank. For washing hands, you may be able to turn the temperature to 110 F. Dishwashing may require temperature settings such as 130 F. However, most dishwashers now have a temperature boost, allowing you to keep your water heater temperature set at a lower temperature.  
**Replace older inefficient appliances.** When purchasing new appliances, use the published energy use data and make energy conscious decisions. Purchase Energy Star models when possible.  
**Don't peek or hold the doors open.** Is your oven electric? Keep the oven door closed and use the interior light switch to check on your food while baking. Opening the door for frequent (3604003.01 Leslie Nelson) peeks into the oven will cause the interior temperature to drop and result in more electricity used to complete your baking. Similarly, you should minimize the amount of time your refrigerator and freezer doors are open.  
**Run only full loads.** When operating your dishwasher, washing machine or clothes dryer, make sure you are running a full load.  
**Stay off-peak!** You can help Red Lake Electric Cooperative hold down its wholesale power bill by shifting your use of non-essential electricity to off-peak hours. This is especially important during the early evening hours when the winter temperatures dip to extremely frigid temperatures.  
Your volunteer assistance to our load management efforts can make a considerable difference in your cooperative's power expenses.



## Letter to the editor

## It's not about air pollution in western North Dakota

Compelling ND and MN electricity consumers to spend \$500 million to build and install unproven pollution control equipment, and to spend up to an additional \$80 million per year thereafter to maintain the equipment, all in order to clean the air to a level which is beyond the capacity of the human eye to see and which has no demonstrable health benefits... What's wrong with that picture? More than you might think, if you look beyond appearances.  
In the interest of full disclosure, I am a member of Clearwater Polk Electric Cooperative. In other words, I am one of the people who is likely to see a 20-30% increase in his electric bill if the Regional Haze mandates of the federal EPA are permitted to trump the air quality standards and pollution control requirements already imposed by the State of North Dakota on the electrical generating operations of Minnkota Power Cooperative. On the other hand, though I'm not among the One Percenters, I can probably afford to pay the increase without undue hardship. So why am I concerned? Because events in North Dakota represent a clear and present danger that has little to do with pollution and much to do with representative government.  
According to the Bismarck Tribune, if the EPA prevails, it will be the first time in regulatory history that the EPA has taken over a state's authority to manage a federal program. Think about that. A federal regulatory agency now claims powers which exceed those of a state in a manner that was never contemplated by the Clean Air Act.  
The air quality standard that the federal EPA wants to impose upon North Dakota, and the specific pollution control equipment it wants to force upon Minnkota Power--and by extension upon all of Minnkota's customers in ND and MN--will not improve visibility for the average human being living or visiting in western North Dakota, but it does make one thing clear: the EPA has become emblematic of a federal government run amuck. The attempt by the EPA to usurp the power of state government highlights the disastrous consequences that ensue when Congress, as the representative branch of the federal government, cedes its authority and social responsibility to an unelected bureaucracy. And it raises the question: who are these bureaucrats that now occupy the wheelhouse at EPA and who have effectively arrogated to themselves the power to decide where we as individuals will spend, and how we as a society will allocate, our financial resources?  
At first blush, they seem to be zealots who are driving--and are driven by--a radical environmental ideology that elevates air purity to a religious virtue. But that characterization is dangerously deceptive. Yes, they are environmental ideologues, but their insistence upon air purity is only a pretext, a club that is being used to bludgeon the public into accepting a broader green agenda by making the use of fossil fuels prohibitively expensive. Does this reflect the public's priorities and concerns? Is \$500 million a price consumers in ND and MN are currently willing to pay to "go green", particularly considering that the \$500 million is only a small down payment on the total cost of the green agenda? To the zealots at EPA, it does not matter what the public thinks. The needs and wishes of the electorate, as perceived and determined by the electorate, are of little concern to them. Why? Because in their minds they know what's best for us. They are unelected elitists to whom Congress has given almost unfettered access to one of the most powerful levers of government: the power to regulate. And the power to regulate, like the power to tax, is the power to coerce behavior. It is the power to destroy. These officious bureaucrats are making cost/benefit decisions which give effect to their ideological priorities regardless of the adverse impact those decisions may have upon other sectors of society and the economy in general, regardless of the onerous financial burden they force businesses and individuals to carry--business and individuals who in countless cases will face genuine hardship and painful choices because of their increased energy costs.  
You think my description is an exaggeration? You think my characterization of the bureaucratic functionaries behind the curtain of the Great Oz that is the EPA too uncharitable? You think I mistake their true motives? Then return to my original question. Who but an irrational environmental zealot would consider an expenditure of \$500 million to make what is already invisible to the human eye even more invisible--especially absent any proven health benefits--to be a worthwhile investment of scarce financial resources? No, the bureaucrats behind the curtain may be environmental zealots, but they are not irrational. Given the relative cost and effectiveness of known pollution control alternatives already tested and approved by state regulatory agencies in North Dakota, and in light of the specific ends to be achieved under the Regional Haze program, forcing the consuming public to make such an extraordinary expenditure only makes sense if it is considered in the context of a far broader green agenda--an agenda which has as its primary goal not the reduction of air pollution in western North Dakota, but rather the artificially accelerated elimination of carbon based fuels, regardless of the economic hardship and social dislocation it inflicts on the poor and an already struggling middle class. There is a Latin expression used in law which describes the situation succinctly: Res ipsa loquitur. "The thing speaks for itself". The real danger lies not in the pollution, but in those who would use it as a pretext to usurp the authority of the state and the powers of representative government in order to decide what is best for us and then compel us to pay for it. And therein lies the greater danger in North Dakota: non-representative federal agency control over both the ends of, and the means of implementing, our nation's energy policy. Obtain regulatory control over the sources, means of production and uses of energy, and you acquire effective control of the country and its people. North Dakota is now the proverbial canary in the regulatory coal mine. And to those whose ardent support of all things green blinds them to the dangerous precedent being set in North Dakota, and who now laud the actions of the EPA because of their ostensibly beneficent effect, I offer a cautionary note: It will not be the first time in history that faceless functionaries behind a curtain of administrative apparatus have both established the ends of governmental policy and controlled the means by which those ends were achieved. It has happened before. And there, despite the rain of Allied bombs, the trains to the camps ran inexorably and on time. You appreciate the danger too late when it's not until the trains have come for you.  
If you share the concern expressed in this letter, you can easily voice your opposition to the actions of the EPA at <http://www.stopepand.com/>. The deadline for comment is Nov. 21.

Michael Brouse  
Fosston, MN

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## Tip of the Month

During the holiday season, consider using Energy Star-qualified lights and strands to decorate. They use 70 percent less energy than regular lights and last up to 10 times as long. They also give off less heat, reducing the risk of fire.  
*Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Energy Star).*



Line maintenance is on-going – just like the demand for and use of electricity

With 2324 miles of overhead power lines, strung out over five different counties, requiring approximately 40,000 poles, the need for line maintenance and upgrades is on-going.

In one upgrade north of Brooks, four spans of overhead line were replaced with underground cable. The conversion to underground eliminated a pole atop a high river-bank soon to fall victim to river-bank erosion. It also eliminated a

transformer pole and yard pole that had been overtaken by spruce trees in the wind break of the member's yard.

Even in these times of economic slow down, the demand for and use of electricity in Red Lake Electric Cooperative's service territory continues to grow annually. Line maintenance is on-going in order to meet the electrical needs of the Cooperative's members.



Troy Schmitz uses a shotgun (insulated fiberglass) stick to remove a hot-tap to open the section of overhead line that is being replaced with underground cable.



Once the phase wire has been attached to the new pole, linemen use a hoist to pull proper tension on the new pole prior to securing the guy wire.

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](http://www.redlakeelectric.com).

- Electrical Safety Foundation International: [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org)
- Alliance to Save Energy: [www.ase.org](http://www.ase.org)
- US Environmental Protection Agency: [www.epa.gov/greenhomes](http://www.epa.gov/greenhomes)
- Energy Star: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)
- Minnesota Safety Council: [www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org](http://www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org)
- Safe Electricity: [www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org)
- Lighting Controls Association: [www.aboutlightingcontrols.org](http://www.aboutlightingcontrols.org)
- US Consumer Product Safety Commission: [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)



Linemen use a handline to drop the neutral wire, which crosses the river, from the existing pole. It will be re-attached to the new underground riser pole.



Schmitz places a rubber blanket over the phase wire prior to making the underground cable connections. The blanket and rubber gloves and sleeves Schmitz is wearing protects him from different potentials and the energized wire.

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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.

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Number of Strings	Rebate per string	Total Rebate

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Schmitz uses two ratchet hoists to transfer the phase wire from the old pole to the new pole. The line remains energized in order not to interrupt electric service to member's accounts up-line.



Schmitz makes one of the final connections on the new pole as he attaches the overhead tap wire to the pin on the end of the underground cable.

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Though you can't see it, the difference is nearly **\$500 million**. That's how much more it would cost for EPA's plan to regulate visibility in North Dakota over the state's existing plan.

When it comes to EPA's plan, the benefits are hazy and the huge costs are crystal clear.

Go to **StopEPAND.com** and tell EPA a federal takeover is **NOT** right for North Dakota.

Comments must be made by November 21, 2011

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Powering our lives.







# Co-op Month Energy Credit Winners

In observance of Co-op Month, the month of October, names of five members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative were randomly drawn to receive a \$50 energy credit. Winners of the credits are Gordon L. Nelson, Middle River; Bryan E. Malone, Thief River Falls; Tracey Vincent, Viking; Don W. Anderson, St. Hilaire; and Mike R. Harmoning, Red Lake Falls.

# TRAILER For Sale on Bids



Red Lake Electric Cooperative is accepting bids on a 1979 Belshe flat bed trailer. It has a gross weight of 27,000. The trailer will be sold as is. It can be viewed at Red Lake Electric's headquarters at 412 International Drive SW, Red Lake Falls, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sealed bids must be received by 10 a.m. Dec. 6, 2011. The Cooperative reserves the right to reject and or all bids. Only any successful bidder will be notified.

# Invite safety home for the holidays

It's easy to get caught up in the hectic pace of holiday entertaining—cookies to bake, decorations to hang, presents to wrap. But don't overlook safety during the rush. The winter holiday period marks peak time for home fires and preventable injuries.

The good news is that it's not difficult to make your home ready to safely host all of your favorite holiday activities.

First, take time out from your party preparations to test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms should be installed on every level of the home and outside each sleeping area. Smoke alarms should also be located inside each bedroom. Be sure to share your family fire escape plan with any overnight guests.

Arrange your holiday decorations to avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many lights, cords, or appliances. Inspect all decorations, cords, and outlets for damage before use. Keep electrical cords



Source: Whirlpool Corporation

**In the midst of cookie-baking and holiday preparations, take time to ensure your home is safe for visitors.**

out of doorways and high traffic areas where they pose a tripping hazard. Do not damage cords by pinching them or attaching them

with staples or nails.

Keep young visitors safe by preparing your home before they arrive. If your home is not already

"child proof," install tamper resistant receptacles or use safety covers on all unused electrical outlets. Store breakables, candles, matches, and other potentially dangerous items in inaccessible or locked areas. Don't forget to put away small items, like buttons, coins, and jewelry, which are a choking hazard. Use safety gates at the top and bottom of stairways to keep babies and toddlers safe.

Safety doesn't stop when the party starts. Keep decorations, gifts, and other combustibles at least 3 feet from heat sources or open flame. Never leave the kitchen when something is cooking. Make sure children are supervised at all times in the kitchen and anywhere space heaters, candles, or fireplaces are being used. Turn off and unplug all decorations before leaving home or turning in for the night.

Remember that a safe and happy holiday remains the best gift you can give friends and family.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International.

# The real story about plug-in space heaters

You have heard radio ads, probably seen newspaper ads, and possibly received promotional materials marketing portable space heaters stating that you can reduce your energy bill up to 50 percent.

Buyer beware.

Their claims, usually found in small print, are based on the assumption that you would operate this portable plug-in space heater in the room you occupy at the time, while turning down the thermostat in the remainder of the living area allowing it to become much cooler.

It's true that any time you turn down your thermostat, you will use less energy to heat your home. However, in many cases, homeowners maintain the original thermostat setting and plug in the portable space heater only to be surprised that they actually used more energy in that particular month to heat their home.

The bottom line is that there are no "magic" plug-in space heaters that will reduce your electric use. Based on the above scenario, you simply sacrifice comfort in the rest of the home to reduce your heating costs.

Heat is measured in British Thermal Units (Btu). There are

3,413 Btu in one kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity. Electric heat sources are 100 percent efficient, no more, no less. The exception is the heat pump, which can achieve higher efficiencies, however, none of these small plug-in space heaters use heat-pump technology. You can achieve the same efficiency from an electric baseboard heater as you can with a plug-in space heater, and at much lower equipment cost.

Before you purchase an expensive space heater that claims an

ability to lower your heating bill, please consider the potential operating costs of these units. You would be money ahead to take the \$400 advertised costs of these "magic" space heaters and put that toward weatherization improvements to your home such as sealing air leaks or adding insulation.

If you have any questions about heating your home economically and efficiently, please contact our member services department.



# AUTO PAY OFFERED BY RLEC

Red Lake Electric Cooperative is pleased to offer you Auto Pay. Now you can have your monthly energy bill paid automatically from your checking or savings account. You can receive the Auto Pay service by completing the Auto Pay sign-up sheet and returning it to Red Lake Electric Cooperative.

The Auto Pay service is free of charge. Not only is this service free, you will eliminate the expense of writing a check, postage to mail your payment and no more late payment penalties because your bill will be paid on time, every month, for you.

Your payment will be automatically made for you on the 5th of each month. If the 5th falls on a week-

end 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.

# AUTO PAY SIGN-UP SHEET

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

RLEC ELECTRIC ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION \_\_\_\_\_

CHECKING ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_\_

SAVINGS ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_\_

SIGN HERE TO AUTHORIZE \_\_\_\_\_

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

# TITAN MACHINERY

Thief River Falls

# Uptime Maintenance Program

*Bring your equipment in for our uptime  
maintenance specials this fall/winter to eliminate  
downtime this coming season!*



**NO Payments, NO Interest  
Until March 1, 2012**  
with Titan Access Account purchases  
of \$750 or more!

**Free Trucking  
Within 60 Miles**

4WD Tractors - \$449.00.	Skidsteers - \$189.00
Quadtracs - \$699.00	Round Balers - \$199.00
2WD Tractors - \$399.00	Square Balers - \$399.00
Compact Tractors - \$299.00	Mower/Conditioners - \$259.00
Combines - \$499.00	

**Sign Up by  
November 30  
& Recieve a**

**FREE**

**Uptime Maintenance  
Carhartt Jacket!**



Contact\*  
**Brian Shaw**  
**218-681-1423**



**Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

*One of the Minnkota Power Systems*

Phone	218-253-2168
Toll-free	1-800-245-6068
Fax	218-253-2630
After-hour outage	218-253-2200
Office hours	Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:30
E-mail:	redlake@minnkota.com
Web site	www.redlakeelectric.com

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