



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. 3

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

DECEMBER 2013

Gentilly Creek Substation Energized September 17th

For many decades, Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC) members, in the southwest portion of the Cooperative's service area, have had their electrical needs served by the Huot substation which is located just five miles southwest of Red Lake Falls. The distance from the substation to member's locations in Onstad and Russia townships, Polk County, amounted to 20 miles or more. It can be a challenge maintaining proper voltage levels at the end of the lines with these distances.

Over the years the electrical demand in the Cooperative's southwest service area has also increased. These increases are partially attributed to new and larger grain handling and storage setups and new and larger farm and machine shops. The addition of new structures and businesses just east of Crookston has also placed an increased demand on the Cooperative's electrical system.

"RLEC is no different than any other business, in that an increase in sales is a welcome for business," stated Roger Johanneck, general manager of RLEC. "But when electrical sales increase, due to increased load, you must have infrastructure to meet these demands."

This was becoming a challenge for RLEC in the surrounding areas of Crookston and Gentilly. It became apparent a few years ago a new substation, in closer proximity to the area, was needed to help meet the increased electrical demand.

RLEC had to supply data to its wholesale electrical supplier, Minnkota Power Cooperative (MPC) of Grand Forks, ND, showing a need for a new substation. Once the substation was approved, the studies, the siting, the easements and the construction were the responsibility of MPC. RLEC's responsibility was to upgrade its infrastructure in (7103003.04 Paul Hanson) order to properly distribute electrical energy from the substation to its members.

These upgrades began in the spring of 2013 when RLEC contracted with Trudell Contracting of Warren to plow four and one half miles of new three phase underground line. This underground line runs parallel to County Road 11 from one mile

west of Gentilly to one mile east of the Crookston Sports Center.

As part of the contract, in addition to the plowing of the cable, Trudell took care of all of the splice pits, did the necessary boring under roads and drive-ways and did the terminations in several junction boxes.

The new underground line allowed for approximately one and one half mile of single phase overhead line to be eliminated. This resulted in the installation of several junction boxes and riser poles which were done by RLEC's line crews. The new line crossed the Red Lake River on the south side of the Gentilly bridge. This overhead crossing was also completed by RLEC crews.

"The addition of a substation in the Cooperative's service territory is a big project and major undertaking," said Bob

Guillemette, RLEC manager of electrical operations. "This is only the tenth substation to be added in 75 years with the last one being energized in 1999."

"This project involved a lot of coordination and work on behalf of our line personnel and they did a great job completing the task," added Guillemette.

The Gentilly Creek substation was energized September 17th and supplies the electrical energy for 223 Cooperative members in Polk County.

Construction costs to be assigned by RLEC for work associated with the substation should amount to approximately \$250,000.

With the Gentilly Creek substation in place and in service, RLEC can better meet the electrical needs of its members today and for many years into the future.



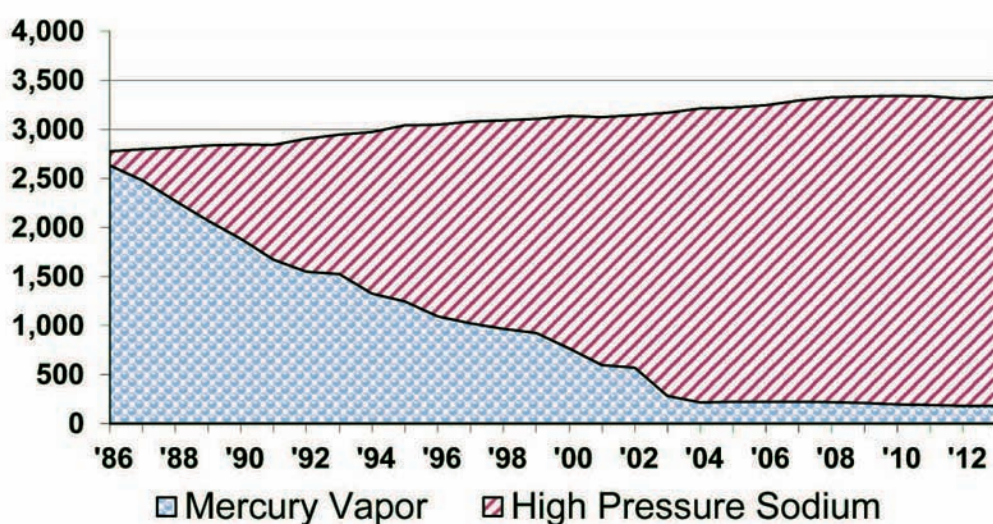
Red Lake Electric Cooperative line personnel work to set a breaker in the Gentilly Creek substation. Branden Narlock, lineman in the bucket, works on terminating underground wire on a riser in the substation. The Gentilly Creek substation was energized Sept. 17 and serves 223 cooperative members in Polk County.

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 us a call today. 1-800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168

Red Lake Electric Cooperative Security Lights in Service



Season's Greetings

*"Christmas is not a time nor a season,
but a state of mind.
To cherish peace and goodwill,
to be plenteous in mercy,
is to have the real spirit of Christmas."
--Calvin Coolidge*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

from your employees and directors at
Red Lake Electric Cooperative

- EMPLOYEES -

Kelli Brateng	Shirley Bregier
Darcy Cardinal	Steve Conely
Aaron Derosier	Jordon Gervais
Bob Guillemette	Roger Johanneck
Christie Klipping	Brett Knott
Steve Kruse	Melanie LaCrosse
Laurie Malwitz	Warren Malwitz
Branden Narlock	Sam Pahlen
Mike Raymond	Kevin Reich
Troy Schmitz	Casey Thronson

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Stacy Blawat	Bonnie Christians
Robbie Finstad	Mark Hanson
Colette Kujava	Steve Linder
Kelly Lundeen	Peter Mosbeck
Randy Versdahl	

Cookies and Calendars

As a small token of appreciation to our members, an open house will be held at Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters.

December 23-24 and 26-27

Stop by for refreshments and Christmas cookies and pick up a 2014 calendar.

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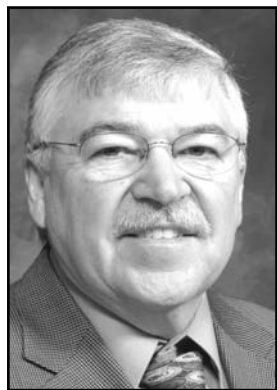
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Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



Energy

Rebate:

Your Cooperative's board of directors approved a rebate to the membership of \$300 thousand that will show up as a credit on the energy bill you receive in December. The rebate was made possible because revenue through the first 11 months of the year has been more than was budgeted or needed to meet the Cooperatives financial obligations and so we are giving members some money back.

The rebate is based on metered kilowatt hours from

January through November billings of 2013. The extra revenue was a result of higher than expected use of electricity by our members; I don't mean in a wasteful way either. A colder winter required more energy to heat our homes. Harvest conditions were not as dry as the previous two falls and that took more energy too. Fixed charges, like facilities charges and demand charges were not more than expected so that revenue to the Cooperative is not part of the rebate calculation. The

\$300,000 rebate calculates out to \$.0028 or 2.8 mills per kWh.

Obviously, I am pleased that your Cooperative is having a good year financially and that we are in a position where we can give members a refund on their last billing of 2013. I am also pleased that your board of directors approved the rebate. Twice prior has the board of directors of the Cooperative given members a rebate; 1997 and 2005.

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

1) Rebates don't happen every year. If you like doing the math, it has happened three times in the past 17 years so let's hold off on making predictions of when the next rebate may occur.

2) This rebate is one of the ways members benefit from being part of Red Lake Electric. You are a stockholder of Red Lake Electric; when your Cooperative does good, you (the owners) benefit.

3) This rebate was made possible because the membership supports the Cooperative; members know it makes sense to buy from their own business.

Our time; a gift that is always in season. The experience of saying good bye to folks I've met through work and are now retired, or family and friends that have died, has certainly influenced my appreciation for the presence of others. As I think about the ones I seldom see or those who are no longer with us, I am mindful of the blessing of family and friends who are still here.

If you're still pondering about what gift to buy someone this Christmas, let's not forget about the gift of our time. Let us be mindful too of those who don't have someone to share the holidays with; Christmas and New Years can be a tough time to go it alone. Our time to stop for a visit, make a phone call or write a card is often the best present we can give.

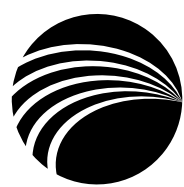
I'd like to think that Red Lake Electric can help you with giving that gift of your time.

After all, isn't much of the electricity that we sell, about saving time? We aren't that many years removed from the experience of cleaning lamps, hauling water pails, feeding livestock, cooking with wood, washing clothes, and powering countless tools that required a fair (6712002.04 Ann Peterson) amount of elbow grease – and time.

On behalf of my fellow employees and the directors of Red Lake Electric, I wish you a joyous Christmas. May the energy we supply, help you accomplish many good things in 2014, as well as free up some time to give others this Holiday Season.



Wishing you the joy of family and the happiness of friends. May the wonder and magic of the holiday season fill your heart and home. Merry Christmas from all your friends at Unity Bank.



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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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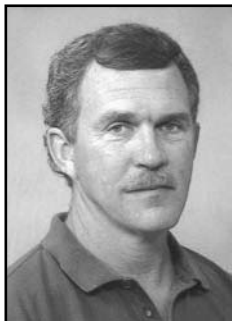
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Steven Linder, Peter Mosbeck,
Colette Kujava, Randy Versdahl,
Stacy Blawat

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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 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.



Member Service Department

by Kevin Reich

Understanding Load Control is a Challenge

Red Lake Electric Cooperative members, that have an off-peak electric heating system, might be asking the question: what is the rationale to the control of off-peak heat? This is a good question but also one difficult to explain.

You might ask this question because back in late October and early November, when outdoor temperatures were much milder, there was some load control. Now in December when temperatures have reached -25 degrees actual and wind chills of -50 degrees, there has been minimal control of electric heat.

Minnkota Power Cooperative of Grand Forks, ND, RLEC's generation and wholesale electric supplier, has ownership in three coal-fired power plants, all located in south western North Dakota. Each year one of these power plants is scheduled off-line for maintenance and upgrades. This plant outage typically spans a six week period. From early October through late November the Milton R. Young II Station was off-line for its, once every three years, planned

outage. With the generation plant off-line, it led to approximately 21 hours of load control during the outage period.

During the recent cold spell all of the generation plants have been on-line, producing electricity, minimizing the need for load control. During this time we have also experienced windy conditions which results in increased electrical production from MPC's wind generation facilities.

As you may know, wind generation has not always been an asset to MPC and its associated utilities. But wind generation during the heating season does have a positive effect on load control, reducing the number of hours of control.

I have been involved with RLEC's off-peak electric heat program for over 30 years and sometimes I have difficulty understanding why there is or isn't load control, therefore I know it can be confusing for you also.

As stated in last month's issue of the "Volts and Jolts", it is estimated that the hours of control, for long term controlled electric heat, to be 245 hours

throughout the heating season. As of December 16 load control has amounted to 31 hours.

With these numbers it is apparent we should experience several more hours of load control throughout the heating season. Be sure you have a dependable back-up heat source with an abundant fuel supply.

Merry Christmas – Happy New Year

The early on-set of winter with abundant snow and much below normal temperatures challenges those of us who choose to live here. We are also challenged this time of year as we go about our normal tasks and then have to work in the preparation and activities associated with Christmas. Sometimes this can be overwhelming and exhausting, and it is during these times we need to reflect and focus on the reason for (5303004.01 Gary Holmgren) the season. The season is well worth the preparation, fellowship, and celebration.

I wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Auto-Pay \$100 winner

Members who use Auto-Pay for making their monthly energy payments were entered in a promotional drawing. The winner of a \$100 energy credit was Faye Auchenpaugh of Thief River Falls. Congratulations Faye!

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 _____



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 \$60 collection fee will be charged to your account, even if you pay the collector.

To have a disconnected service reconnected, all amounts owing, a \$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.

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.

Recipe Corner



Layered Shrimp Dip

1 package (3 ounces) cream cheese, softened.
6 Tbsp salsa, divided
1/2 C. cocktail sauce
3 cans (6 oz. each) small shrimp, rinsed and drained
1 can (2-1.4 oz) sliced ripe olives, drained
1 C. (4 oz.) shredded cheddar cheese
1 C. (4 oz.) shredded Monterey Jack cheese
Sliced green onions
Tortilla chips
Combine cream cheese and 3 Tbsp of salsa; spread into an ungreased 9-in. pie plate. Combine cocktail sauce and remaining salsa; spread over cream cheese. Place shrimp evenly over top. Sprinkle with olives. Combine cheeses; sprinkle over olives. Top with onions. Chill. Serve with tortilla chips.

Yield: 12-16 servings.

Broken Glass Dessert

1 envelope unflavored gelatin
1/4 C. cold water
1 C. pineapple juice
1-1/2 C. graham cracker crumbs
1/2 C. sugar
1/2 C. butter or margarine, divided
1 pkg. (3 oz.) strawberry gelatin
1 pkg. (3 oz.) orange gelatin
1 carton (8 oz.) frozen whipped topping, thawed
Soften unflavored gelatin in cold water. Boil pineapple juice; stir into unflavored gelatin. Set aside until slightly thickened, about 3 hours. Meanwhile, combine crumbs, sugar and butter; press onto the bottom of a greased 13-in. x 9-in. x 2-in pan. Chill. Combine lime gelatin and 1-1/2 C. boiling water; stir until gelatin is dissolved. Pour into an 8-in. x 4-in x 2-in loaf pan that has been coated with nonstick cooking spray; chill until very firm. Repeat for strawberry and orange gelatins. Place whipped topping in a large bowl; gently fold in pineapple juice mixture. When flavored gelatins are firm, cut into 1-in. cubes; gently fold into whipped topping mixture. Spoon over crust. Chill for at least 2 hours.

Yield: 12-16 servings

Eggnog Rice Pudding

2-1/4 C. eggnog
5 tsp cornstarch
2 C. cooked long grain rice
1/2 C. finely chopped red and green candied cherries
1 tsp vanilla extract
1/4 tsp salt
Place 2 C. of eggnog in a heavy saucepan. Combine the cornstarch and remaining eggnog until smooth; add to pan. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly; boil for 1-2 minutes. Remove from the heat; stir in rice, cherries, vanilla and salt. Spoon into dishes. Chill 2-3 hours.

Yield: 4-6 servings

Roast Pork with Spiced Cherry Sauce

1 boneless pork loin roast (3-4 lbs)
1 tsp salt
1 tsp pepper
1 tsp rubbed sage
1 can (16 oz) pitted tart red cherries
1-1/2 C. sugar
1/4 C. vinegar
12 whole cloves
1 cinnamon stick (3 inches)
1/3 C. cornstarch
1 Tbsp lemon juice
1 Tbsp butter or margarine
3-4 drops red food coloring, optional
Rub roast with salt, pepper and sage; place in an ungreased shallow baking pan. Bake, uncovered, at 325° for 1-1/2 to 2 hours or until a meat thermometer reads 160°-170°. Meanwhile, drain cherries, reserving liquid. Set cherries aside. Add water to cherry liquid to measure 3/4 C. Pour 1/2 C. into a saucepan; add sugar, vinegar, cloves and cinnamon. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 10 minutes. Remove and discard the spices. In a small bowl, combine cornstarch and remaining cherry liquid until smooth; add to saucepan. Bring to a boil; cook for 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Stir in lemon juice, butter, cherries and food coloring if desired; heat through. Let roast stand for 10 minutes; slice and serve with the cherry sauce.

Yield: 8-10 servings.

White Velvet Cutouts

2 C. butter (no substitutes), softened
1 package (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
2 C. sugar
2 egg yolks
1 tsp vanilla extract
4-1/2 C. all-purpose flour
Butter Cream Frosting
3-1/2 C. confectioners' sugar, divided
3 Tbsp butter (no substitutes), softened
1 Tbsp shortening
1/2 tsp vanilla extract
3-4 Tbsp milk, divided
Red and/or green food coloring*, optional
In a mixing bowl, cream butter and cream cheese until light and fluffy. Add sugar, egg yolks and vanilla; mix well. Gradually add flour. Cover and chill for 2 hours or until firm. Roll out on a floured surface to 1/4-in. thickness. Cut into 3-in. shapes; place 1 in. apart on greased baking sheets. Bake at 350° for 10-12 minutes or until set (not browned). Cool for 5 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool. For frosting, combine 1-1/2 C. sugar, butter, shortening, vanilla and 3 Tbsp milk in a mixing bowl; beat until smooth. Gradually add remaining sugar; beat until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Add enough remaining milk and food coloring until frosting reaches desired consistency. Frost cookies.

Yield: about 7 dozen.

***Editor's Note:** For a deeper color of frosting, tint with food coloring paste available at kitchen and cake decorating supply stores.

Rye Party Puffs

1 C. water
1/2 C. butter or margarine
1/2 C. all-purpose flour
1/2 C. rye flour
2 tsp dried parsley flakes
1/2 tsp garlic powder
1/4 tsp salt
4 eggs
Caraway seeds
Corned Beef Filling
2 pkgs (8 oz. each) cream cheese, softened
2 pkgs (2-1/2 oz. each) cooked corned beef, finely chopped
1/2 C. mayonnaise
1/4 C. sour cream
2 Tbsp minced chives
2 Tbsp finely chopped onion
1 tsp spicy brown or horseradish mustard
1/8 tsp garlic powder
10 small stuffed olives, chopped
In a saucepan over medium heat, bring water and butter to a boil. Add flours, parsley, garlic powder and salt all at once; stir until a smooth ball forms. Remove from the heat; let stand for 5 minutes. Beat in eggs, one at a time. Beat until smooth. Drop the batter by rounded teaspoonfuls 2 in. apart onto greased baking sheets. Sprinkle with caraway seeds. Bake at 400° for 18-20 minutes or until golden. Remove to wire racks. Immediately cut a slit in each puff to allow steam to escape; cool. In a mixing bowl, combine the first eight filling ingredients; mix well. Stir in olives. Split puffs; add filling. Refrigerate until serving.

Yield: 4-1/2 dozen.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. Operating Report MONTHLY COMPARISON

	OCT 2012	OCT 2013
Total Revenue	\$ 938,476	\$ 916,792
Total Margins	\$ (25,695)	\$ (48,389)
Cost of Power	\$ 732,896	\$ 693,006
KWH's Purchased	9,484,800	8,633,632
Capital Credits Paid to Estates ..\$	4,817	\$ 2,518

YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

	OCT 2012	OCT 2013
Total Revenue	\$10,709,509	\$11,156,986
Total Margins	\$ 590,174	\$ 1,003,431
Cost of Power	\$7,761,091	\$ 7,777,012
KWH's Purchased	103,549,015	107,282,570
New Service Connections	39	27
Customers Served	5,222	5,262
Capital Credits Paid to Estates ..\$	79,919	\$ 92,709
Miles of Line		
Overhead	2,323	2,324
Underground	249	256

From the Mail Bag

Dear RLEC,
Many thanks to the two line-man that repaired my HP sodium light and for trimming the trees.

Roy Bakke
Newfolden



Season's Greetings

To all our readers, advertisers, friends and associates go our best wishes for a season filled with good news and good times. Your support makes it all worthwhile. Happy Holidays and many thanks!

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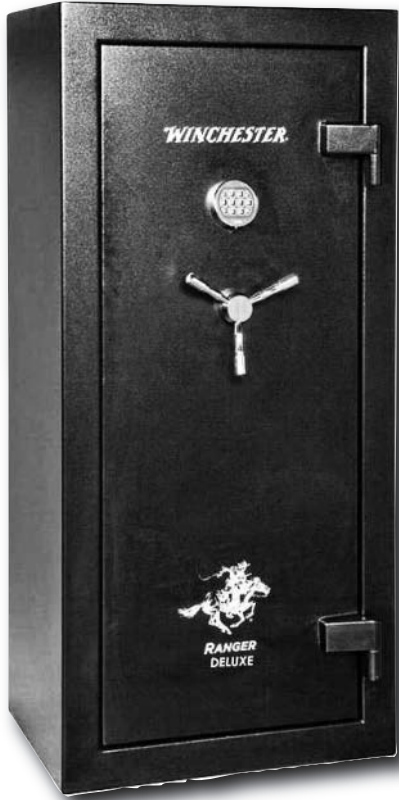
After-Hours
Outage Phone
218-253-2200

Holiday Office Hours

Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters will be closed Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25 and New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1. In case of an electric outage or emergency, please call the after-hour phone number at 218-253-2200.

Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

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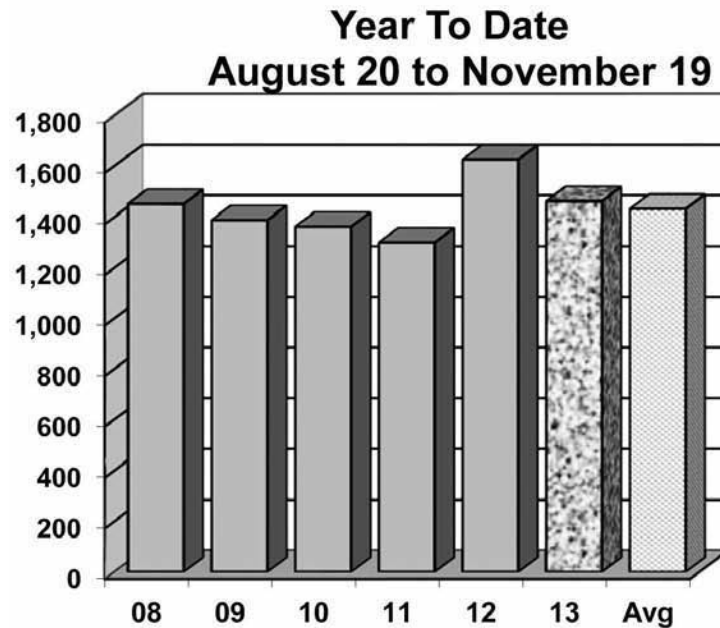
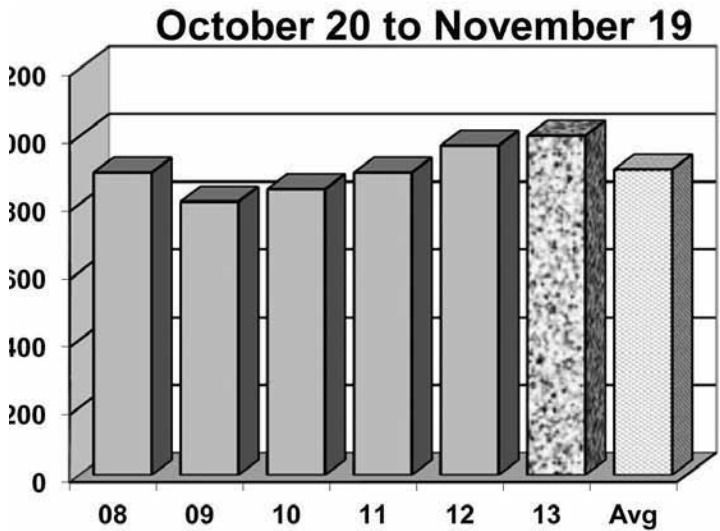
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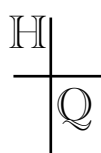
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VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Bruggeman family has adorned yard for 10 years

By Heather Blodgett

The festively lit home and decorated yard that greets drivers as they near Thief River Falls, along US Highway 59, belongs to Dean and Dayna Bruggeman.

The couple moved to the home in 2003, which is actually the house Dayna grew up in, and began decorating that year. "We started doing it for our son, Brandon, who is now 13," explains Dayna.

The couple began their light display on the house first. Each year they scour after Christmas clearance sales to add to their display, which has now moved outward and covers most of their



Mr. and Mrs. Claus look over the railing of the front porch of the Bruggeman home at the front yard ornamentation and lighting.

large yard.

They try to find unique décor to set their display apart from others, such as an illuminated sign bearing their name. The polar bears and igloo are Brandon's favorite. "I kind of like those too," agrees Dayna, "You don't see that too much."

Mother nature has had several effects on decorating over the years. The Bruggemans must find very sturdy décor as the wind has claimed quite a few pieces. One year, a strong gust even blew over the ladder Dean was using. He got caught on the roof and had to jump down.

Now when working on the roof he is always sure to bring his cell phone with him.

The couple recently began switching many of their lights from the traditional bulbs to LEDs. They plan to continue this for the future to be more energy efficient. They want to keep adding to the

display by acquiring different lighted pieces each year and are currently working on getting more decorations for their Snoopy scene.

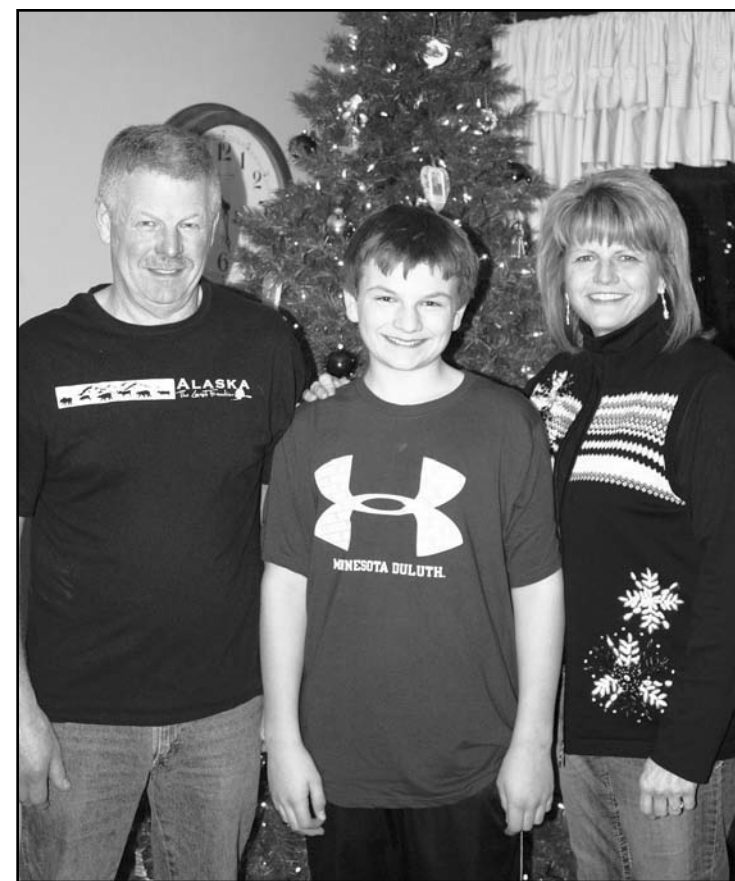
Lights start going up the second weekend in November and it usu-

ally takes two full weekends to get everything set out, but the couple believes it's worth the time and effort. "It's awesome," agrees Brandon.

Many people pull into the Bruggeman yard for a closer look, and Dayna tells the story of how the lights had an impact on one of those who passed by. A boy stopped to look at the display with his mom and she explained to the family that he would take pictures of the lights and go home to set up his toys, figurines and legos to mimic their display. He really enjoyed seeing it every day as they drove past.

"That's one of those stories that you take to heart," says Dayna. "It's why we do this. We want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas."

Dean agrees, "It's just fun!"



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Why do we put lights on Christmas trees?

The Christmas tree: It's long been a symbol of the holiday season. Each year, people around the world cut down an evergreen tree and decorate it with lights and ornaments, but have you ever thought about how this tradition started?

People started putting lights - candles to be more specific - on Christmas trees in the middle of the 17th century. These were attached to the end of tree branches with wax or pins and were adhered to the tree to represent shining stars. This tradition started in Germany and spread to Eastern Europe over the next two centuries. Because this was a serious fire hazard, most people didn't put their trees up until December 24, ensuring that they would only be up for a brief period of time while the tree was still fresh - and much less flammable.

The custom of putting strings of lights on trees began in 1882 when Edward Johnson - an associate of Thomas Edison - wired red, white and blue bulbs together and placed them on an evergreen tree. In 1895, President Grover Cleveland followed suit and decorated a Christmas tree in the White House with stringed lights. The public took notice, and the tradition started to catch on.

However, it was extremely expensive to have a lit Christmas tree. General Electric sold bulbs for this purpose, but they needed to be wired together by a professional electrician. Additionally, if a homeowner wanted a lit Christmas tree, but didn't have electricity yet, they'd have to purchase a generator to keep the lights on.

In 1903, the American Eveready Company developed an easier to use light set involving screw-in bulbs and a plug-in for the wall socket. Even with this easier to use equipment electric tree lights weren't catching on rapidly. People were still using unsafe candles as a way to light their trees, until Albert Sadacca came up with the idea to make the lights multi-colored in 1917.

He and his two brothers Henri and Leon started NOMA Electric Company, which became the largest Christmas lighting company (4727002.02 Brian Wellman) in the world.

Since that time, lights have continued to evolve.

Miniature bulb sets came about in the late 1960s and came in strands of 25 or 50 lights. These were very similar to the standard miniature lights available today. However, there are more options available for size and color today than then were in the past.

The latest advancement in holiday lights is the use of LED (light-emitting diode) technology. These lights are far more efficient than incandescent lights and have a much longer life-span.



The tradition of putting lights on Christmas trees dates back to the 17th century.

Use Timers to Cut Electricity Costs

Don't underestimate the value of simple timers in reducing your electricity use. Clock timers are inexpensive devices found at any hardware store or home center. Simply plug the power cord of your device into the timer and it will cycle on and off at the times you set. Particularly during the holiday season, automatically cutting-off decorative lights during overnight hours makes sense. At 2 a.m., why keep lights burning if no one is awake to see them? Other year-round applications abound both indoors and out. Nearly anything with a 120-volt plug can be cycled on/off through a timer. Beyond outdoor security lighting, consider giving an unoccupied house a lived-in look in the name of security. On the farm, timers can control engine block heaters on tractors or trucks. Turning engine heaters off an hour or so at a time allows residual heat to keep the engine warm so it will still start when needed. Also, plug-in heaters used with livestock water tanks (or pet bowls) to prevent freezing can be cycled on-and-off with a timer. The water will remain ice-free if the heating element is cycled off during daylight hours when outside temperatures typically climb above freezing. For those battery-operated tools in your workshop, it's enticing to leave

them plugged-in all the time so they're always ready for action. But, leaving some devices perpetually connected means they draw a small amount of current all the time. This brings in the concept of phantom loads, a term often linked to electronics, TVs and gadgets that use a slight amount of power even when off. Try using a timer to control a power strip of several cord-connected loads. This

allows you to cycle-off multiple phantom loads when you don't need their instant-on capability. We all want to reduce waste; timers offer an inexpensive way to (3709008.04 Murray D. Jorde) turn items on and off around your home or farm. If used outdoors, select a timer designed for outside use.

Source: Rural Electric Resource Council

Contractor training set for January

Minnkota Power Cooperative and the associated systems will host contractor continuing education workshops again in 2014. This marks the 26th year of the successful program, which is aimed at providing area trade allies with the latest information in building and electrical practices.

The program begins Wednesday, Jan. 22, at the Hampton Inn in Bemidji, Minn. It continues Thursday, Jan. 23 at the Ramada Inn in Grand Forks, N.D.; and Wednesday, Jan. 29, at the Doublewood Inn in Fargo, N.D; and Thursday, Jan. 30 at the Bigwood Event Center in Fergus Falls, Minn.

For more information about the program, contact Sue Black, Minnkota communications/member services specialist, at (701) 795-4292 or email questions to sblack@minnkota.com.



Don't want to write a check? Want to save on postage?

Red Lake Electric has a new payment option to make paying your bill easy. This service is free. Sign up is simple. Go to www.redlakeelectric.com and click on the Bill4U icon.

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Informational Web Sites

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

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

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Phone: 1-888-778-4008
Phone: 1-218-796-5144
Fax #: 1-218-796-5175
WWW.Intercountycc.org

Are you struggling to make ends meet? The Energy Assistance Program can help.

FUNDED BY MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

Money is available to help pay your heating bills. Inter-County Comm. Council serves households that live in Pennington, Red Lake & East Polk Counties.

It's hard with the high cost of basic needs like food, medicine, transportation, and heating. The Minnesota Energy Assistance Program (EAP) helps take a bite out of heating bills and wants to help keep you warm.

EAP serves homeowners and renters paying for heat directly to an energy vendor or indirectly (heat included in rent).

Homeowners may also get help repairing or replacing a furnace. Must call us first.

Examples of eligible household income:

Households of 1: \$5,673. Households of 2: \$7,419.

Households of 3: \$9,164. Households of 4: \$10,910.

Income is based on the three (3) months prior to the month you sign the application.

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To help commemorate Red Lake Electric Cooperative's 75th anniversary, clippings and pictures from past issues of the "Volts and Jolts" have been used at district meetings, the annual meeting and in the anniversary report and video. The Cooperative has had requests from members to re-publish and share some of these past publishings. These pictures and informational items appeared in the December 1950 issue of the *Volts & Jolts*.



Editor's note: This Christmas tree picture appeared in at least three consecutive December issues of the *Volts & Jolts* beginning in 1950.

Joyce Kilmer "Trees"

I THINK that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the sweet earth's flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me, But
only God can make a tree.

"THE TREE"

Joyce Kilmer's poem on "Trees" is a masterpiece in itself; set to music it is even more of a masterpiece of truth. The feeling of peace can almost be felt when listening to Joyce Kilmer's words whether the words are being spoken or sung. The front page of our newsletter is an example of what we believe the poem was based on.

The tree, decorated and installed in the lobby of our office, is a Norway Pine, secured by the employees. It has as ornaments six strings of blue lights and many, many boxes of tinsel.

We rushed the season by completing the decorating of "The Tree" on Monday, December 4, 1950.

At the writing of this article we have not as yet secured the finished picture for the newsletter and we are only hoping that it will turn out one-half as pretty as we believe "Our Tree" really is.

"We hope that you will stop in during the December collection period and just take a glance at it and see for yourself the peace that "Trees" may bring.

At Christmas

A man is at his finest towards the finish of the year;
He is almost what he should be when the Christmas season's here;
Then he's thinking more of others than he's thought the months before; And the
Laughter of his children is a joy worth toiling for.
He is less a selfish creature than at any other time;
When the Christmas spirit rules him, he comes close to the sublime.

When it's Christmas, man is bigger and is better in his part;
He is keener for the service that is prompted by the heart.
All the petty thoughts and narrow seem to vanish for awhile
And the true 'reward he's seeking is the glory of a smile,
Then for others he is toiling and somehow it seems to me
That at Christmas he is almost what God wanted him to be.

If I had to paint a picture of a man I think I'd wait
Till he'd fought his selfish battles and had put aside his hate,
I'd not catch him at his labors' when his thoughts are all of self,
On the long days and the dreary when he's striving for himself.
I'd not take him when he's sneering, when he's scornful or depressed, But I'd look
for him at Christmas when he's shining at his best.

Man is ever in a struggle and he's oft misunderstood
There are days the worst that's in him is the master of the good, But at Christmas
kindness rules him and he puts himself aside
And his petty hates are vanquished and his heart is opened wide. Oh; I don't know
how to say it, but somehow it seems to me
That at Christmas man is almost what God sent him here to be.

author unknown

From The Mail Bag

Dear Manager-

I want to take this way of thanking you for the electricity. It was the nicest Christmas present anyone could ever get.

We shall ever be grateful to the whole crew for finishing the line for us. Thank you again.

Mrs. Maurice Lillo.

What type of investor are you?

Why knowing the answer is important to your financial future

By Doreen Friel

When it comes to investing, you need to answer one question: What kind of investor are you? Think about how you feel about money and how well you sleep at night when markets are moving quickly, either up or down.

In general, there are three types of investors: conservative, moderate, and aggressive.

Conservative investors worry about short-term market volatility. They usually look to minimize risk (they don't want their investments to lose value, even temporarily) and desire safety of principal (they don't want their account value to fall below the original amount of money invested).

Moderate investors have some of the same concerns as conservative investors, but they are willing to sacrifice some safety for potentially greater returns. They can handle modest market fluctuations. Even though they are concerned with the safety of their principal, they are willing to take on some risk in an effort to have their investments earn potentially higher returns.

Aggressive investors are different. They want to maximize investment returns and are willing to tolerate quite a bit of market volatility. They believe the risk is a small price to pay for potentially greater investment returns.

Retirement investors need to know how a client feels about investing, and how long the investments need to last, before they can decide which investments are right for them.

So ask yourself: If the stock market dropped significantly and you invest primarily (3427001.02 Larry Bryl) in stock-related funds, how well would you sleep? Would you disregard the volatility because you understand you are investing for a number of years and the market will likely bounce back, or would you fret all night over the money you think you've "lost," even if's only temporary.

Choosing strategies that are compatible with your outlook will help you have more confidence in your retirement investment choices.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Looking back at the passing of another year we are reminded that every end is a new beginning. As we look forward to the New Year we hope yours is filled with peace, love, joy and prosperity.



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Solid Lighting Solutions; LEDs meet (and exceed) 2014 lighting efficiency standards

By Megan McKoy-Noe and Brian Sloboda

A new year calls for updated lightbulb efficiency guidelines. No need to use bulbs with a twist; light-emitting diodes (LEDs) can help you switch on savings.

Congress called for improved energy efficiency standards for traditional incandescent bulbs under the federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. By 2014, lightbulbs using between 40-W to 100-W must consume at least 28 percent less energy than classic bulbs. The change will save Americans an estimated \$6 billion to \$10 billion in lighting costs annually.

When the next wave of standards kicks in next month, traditional 40-W and 60-W incandescents will no longer be available. In their place, some consumers are filling the gap with a solid solution: LEDs.

'Solid' lighting

Incandescent bulbs create light using a thin wire (filament) inside a glass bulb—a delicate connection that can easily be broken, as frustrated homeowners can attest. In contrast, LEDs are at the forefront of solid-state lighting—small, packed electronic chip devices. Two conductive materials are placed together on a chip (a diode). Electricity passes through the diode, releasing energy in the form of light.

Invented in 1960 by General Electric, the first LEDs were red—the color depends on materials placed on the diode.

Yellow, green, and orange LEDs were created in the 1970s and the recipe for the color blue—the foundation for white LEDs—was unlocked in the mid-1990s. Originally used in remote controls, exit signs, digital watches, alarm clocks, and car signal lights, LEDs quickly gained momentum for large-scale lighting.

Measuring LED potential

The Arlington, Va.-based Cooperative Research Network has partnered with several electric cooperatives throughout the United States to test LEDs. Researchers are cautiously optimistic; LEDs offer several benefits:

- LEDs could last longer, perhaps for decades
- The energy to use LEDs could be substantially less than that of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) or other fluorescent bulbs
- With no mercury content, LEDs are more environmentally friendly
- The products are rugged and more resistant to breakage
- LEDs perform well in cold climates, especially outdoors
- LEDs can be dimmed and produce a more pleasing light

However, some consumers avoid LEDs because the price tag exceeds normal lightbulb costs. But the true value lies in the lifetime of the bulb. It takes about 50 traditional incandescent bulbs, or eight to 10 CFLs, to last as long as one LED lamp.

Buyer Beware

Poor quality LED products are flooding the marketplace.

Some are manufactured outside of the United States with components that produce low light levels, don't boast a long service life, or make exaggerated energy saving claims.

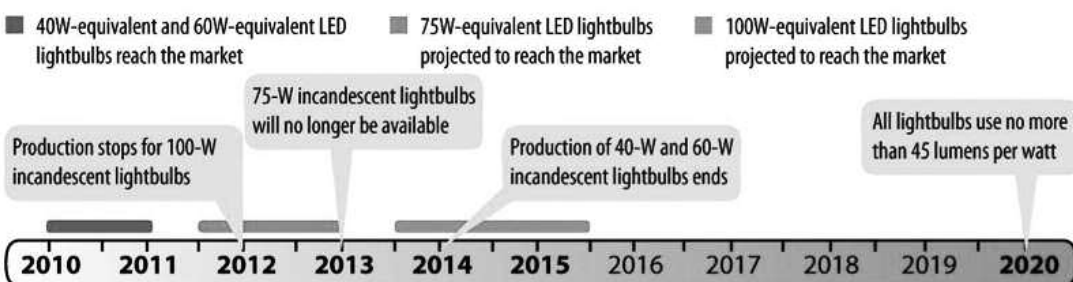
Don't be fooled. Look for the U.S. Department of Energy's ENERGY STAR logo for guaranteed color quality over time, steady light output over the lifetime, high efficiency, and a warranty.

You can also look for an LED Lighting Facts label. The label helps consumers compare products to manufacturer claims and similar products with a quick summary of performance in five areas:

- **Lumens:** Measures light output. The higher the number, the more light is emitted.
- **Lumens per watt (lm/W):** Measures efficiency. The higher the number, the more efficient the product.
- **Watts:** Measures the energy required to light the product. The lower the wattage, the less energy is used.
- **Correlated Color Temperature (CCT):** Measures light color. "Cool" colors have higher Kelvin temperatures (3,600–5,500 K); "warm" colors have lower color temperatures (2,700–3,000 K). Cool white light is usually better for visual tasks. Warm white light is usually better for living spaces because it casts a warmer light on (2729006.02 Loretta Halvorson) skin and clothing. Color temperatures of 2,700 to 3,600 K are recommended for most general indoor and task

LEDs: A Decade of Change

By 2014, lightbulbs using between 40-W to 100-W must consume at least 28 percent less energy than traditional incandescents, saving Americans an estimated \$6 billion to \$10 billion in lighting costs annually. The federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 also mandates that lightbulbs become 70 percent more efficient by 2020. Light-emitting diodes (LEDs) are quickly evolving to meet this challenge. Learn more: EnergySavers.gov/Lighting



Source: U.S. Department of Energy Lighting Facts Product Snapshot: LED Replacement Lamps 2011

This chart provides comparisons between equivalent halogen, CFL, and LED lighting.

lighting.

- **Color Rendering Index (CRI):** Measures the effect of the lamp's light spectrum on the color appearance of objects. The higher the number, the truer the appearance of the light. Incandescent lighting is 100 on the CRI.

Shedding Light on LEDs

More lighting efficiency changes are coming. Congress' measure mandates lightbulbs become 70 percent more efficient by 2020.

Curious to know if LEDs are right for you? Learn how to show using LED labels at www.lightingfacts.com/content/consumers. Homeowners can visit

www.energysavers.gov/lighting to compare LEDs to new energy-efficient incandescent bulbs and CFLs.

Sources: The Association of Electrical Equipment and Medical Imaging Manufacturers, U.S. Department of Energy, Cooperative Research Network.

Green Giving; Energy efficient shopping, baking, and decorating holiday tips

By Christina Sawyer

Hosting a "green" holiday takes a little planning and effort, but the payoff can help your budget stay out of the red. So go ahead and deck the halls with energy savings by following these tips for energy-efficient shopping, baking, and decorating.

Green Shopping

Investing in a big gift? ENERGY STAR TVs and appliances save a bundle on power use.

They feature a lower standby-mode consumption than an average device and generally use less energy in all functions.

Include a smart power strip as part of your gift. Most electronic devices consume energy, even when turned off. In fact, such standby power consumption ranges from 5 percent to 10 percent of a household's total energy consumption.

Smart power strips save energy by shutting off power to plugged-in gadgets when they go into standby mode. Many smart power strips also have one or two unmonitored, always-on outlets. Use these outlets to plug in devices that always need power, like a cordless phone base or alarm system.

Deck the House in Savings

Know a neighbor who gives the fictional Griswold family from "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" a run for their money? Give them strings of light-emitting diodes (LEDs). A high-quality LED has a life expectancy of 50,000 hours or more.

More isn't always best. A small, thoughtful display stirs warm holiday feelings and you'll be grateful when your January power bill doesn't put a dent in your budget. Consider



using timers for holiday lights, too. Set lights to turn on when it gets dark and off once viewers are snug in their beds. Four to six (2129006.01 Wayne A. Kilen) hours should be plenty of time. And don't forget using ribbons, wreaths, and garland—energy-free decorating traditions still deliver holiday cheer!

Green-Baked Goodies

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates cooking accounts for 4 percent of a home's total energy use. Add energy costs for refrigeration, hot water heating, and dishwashing and you've got a hefty kitchen price tag. As holiday parties and potlucks gear up, keep efficient cooking tips in mind.

Cut baking temperatures by 25° with a ceramic or glass pan. These pans retain heat better than metal. Use the oven wisely by cooking in large batches, and fit pans into all available oven space. Keep the door closed. Each time you peek into the oven you let out hot air, causing the (1116001.05 Orville Skadsem) oven to work overtime to bring the temperature back up.

Get to know how long it

takes to preheat your oven and make sure you're ready to start cooking right away. Insert a stainless steel skewer through meat or baked potatoes to speed the cooking process, or cut food into smaller pieces to shorten cooking time.

Have a convection option on your stove? It helps reduce cooking time and temperature.

Turn your electric oven off ten minutes before the end of the cooking time; it maintains the temperature that long. And last but not least, if you're planning some kitchen time, lower your thermostat. The heat generated in your kitchen can help heat the entire house, especially if you leave the oven door open after you are done.

The holidays are a joyful time, and there's little that feels as good as giving someone you love the perfect gift. Make that gift a positive one and keep the holidays green for both you and your loved ones.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy

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Gentilly Creek substation work complete



Trudell Contracting of Warren plowed 4 1/2 miles of three phase underground line to be used to distribute the electricity from the Gentilly Creek substation. This line runs along Polk County road 11 and serves Red Lake Electric members east of Crookston.



Red Lake Electric line personnel work to construct one of the riser structures for the overhead line crossing of the Red Lake River by the Gentilly bridge.



Sam Pahlen (L), apprentice lineman and Casey Thronson, crew foreman, with Red Lake Electric, work to complete the terminations in one of several junction boxes as part of the new three phase underground line along Polk County road 11 west of Gentilly.



Aaron Derosier, apprentice lineman, uses a web hoist and dynamometer to pull the wire into proper sag over the Red Lake River along side the Gentilly bridge. The dynamometer measures the tension on the wire.



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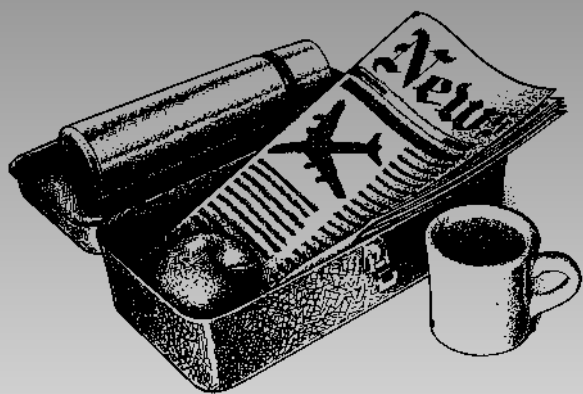
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Brett Knott (L), lineman, and Alan Cota, retired crew foreman, dig to expose existing underground cable so it can be spliced to the new cable coming out of the Gentilly Creek substation. Infrastructure improvements associated with the new substation spanned throughout the summer for Red Lake Electric line crews.



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The members are invited to use this FREE WANT AD service.

If you have anything to trade or sell, just drop a card to Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

For Sale

For Sale - John Deere #700 feeder grinder/mixer - S/N 002201 - 540 pto. Four extra screens. Stored inside, located near Red Lake Falls. \$2500. Call Dave Schirrick at (775)219-3704 or (775)623-4353

For Sale - Eaton 10 speed #RTO0167100 AS2. Auto shift but can be easily installed as standard shift. Stored inside, located near Red Lake Falls. \$2800. Call Dave Schirrick at (775)219-3704 or (775)623-4353

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