



Volts and Jolts

Published monthly for the members of
RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

SERVING THE FOUR-COUNTY AREA OF MARSHALL, PENNINGTON, RED LAKE AND POLK

VOL. 44 – NO. 02

RED LAKE FALLS (RED LAKE COUNTY), MINNESOTA 56750

DECEMBER 2008

Red Lake Electric Cooperative retail rates to increase with March 2009 billing

Red Lake Electric Cooperative's retail rates will increase an average of 13.3 percent with the monthly bill customers receive in March of 2009. The increase in rates is needed to offset a 13 percent rate increase from Minnkota Power Cooperative in March of 2009 and to make up for our loss of DBS franchise sale proceeds that began in 1999 and ended in 2008. The combination of these two events will impact Red Lake Electric Cooperatives bottom line by \$1.1 million in 2009.

The end of the DBS sale proceeds amounted to \$529,000 in 2008 and the 13 percent wholesale rate increase from Minnkota power means an increase in our cost of power by over \$600,000 in 2009 if customers energy usage is similar to what was purchased in 2008.

Customers will also see a continuation of seasonal rates that were first implemented with the Cooperative's retail rate increase in July of 2007. Seasonal rates, for most, will be higher in the winter months or billing periods of January, February and March, and lower rates the remaining nine months of the year.

Higher retail rates in the winter are the result of the higher wholesale cost of electricity for those months, as well as increased distribution system costs associated with rising winter peak demands for energy.

Even with energy conservation measures encouraged by the Cooperatives rebate program and the response (3925006.01 Dennis Carpenter) by customers who have used these rebates to upgrade to more energy efficient heating systems and appliances, the demand for energy, especially over peak periods continues to increase. Energy purchased by our customers for the winter months (January through March) increased nearly 13 percent in 2008; the following eight months (April through November), customer usage increased about half that amount.

The system peak demand for Red Lake Electric increased by over 9 percent in 2008. This system peak, which occurs in winter, is determined when all off-peak loads have been shed and only on peak loads are placing demand on the system. The cost to meet these peak demand loads need to be reflected in the cost of providing that energy

to customers. It is hoped the higher retail winter rates will encourage members to be more energy conservation minded during the time of year it impacts our cost of providing that service the most.

Should you have any questions about the new rates or their effect

on you, call the Red Lake Electric office at 253-2168 or 1-800-245-6068.

Following is a summary comparing Red Lake Electric's present rates to the new rates that customers will pay effective with the March 2009 billing.

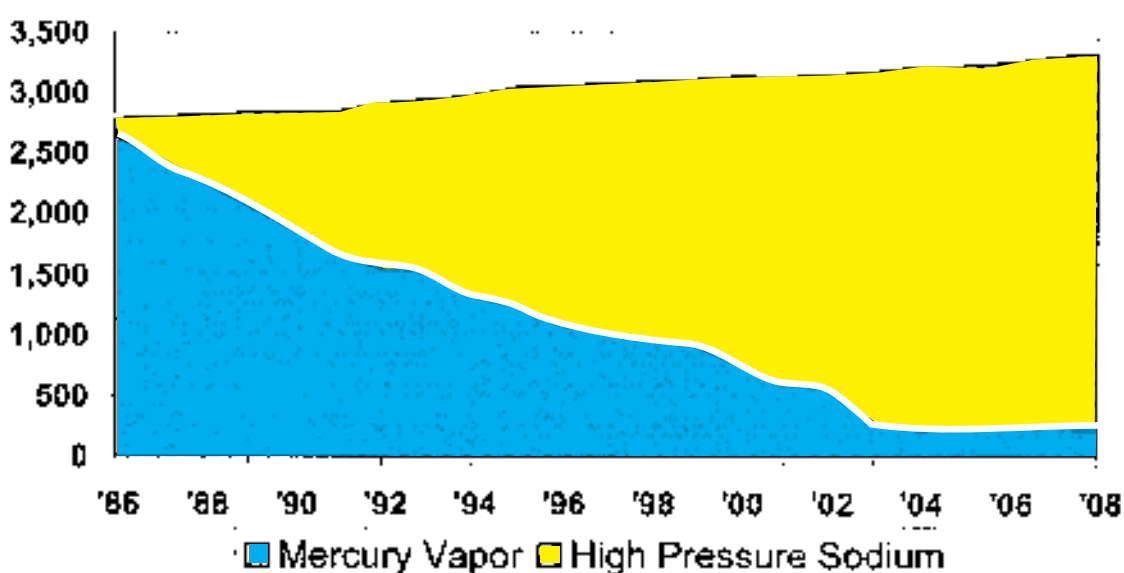
Retail Rate Change Effective March, 2009 Billing		
Rate 1, General Service		
	Current Rate	New Rate
Monthly Facilities Charge		
1.5 - 10 kVA Transformer	\$15.00	\$17.00
11 - 25 kVA Transformer	\$18.00	\$20.00
26 - 75 kVA Transformer	\$21.00	\$23.00
First 500 kWh	\$0.08	\$0.09
Over 500 kWh (Jan - Mar)	\$0.065	\$0.075
Over 500 kWh (Apr - Dec)	\$0.057	\$0.066
Multi-phase Surcharge	\$16.00	\$17.00
Rate 2, On Peak Service, over 75 kVA Transformer		
	Current Rate	New Rate
Monthly Facilities Charge		
First 35,000 kWh (Jan - Mar)	\$0.044	\$0.050
First 35,000 kWh (Apr - Dec)	\$0.042	\$0.048
Over 35,000 kWh (Jan - Mar)	\$0.041	\$0.047
Over 35,000 kWh (Apr - Dec)	\$0.039	\$0.045
Demand Chg per kW (Jan - Mar)	\$8.00	\$9.00
Demand Chg per kW (Apr - Dec)	\$5.00	\$6.00
Rate 3, Seasonal Service over 75 kVA Transformer		
	Current Rate	New Rate
Monthly Facilities Charge per kVA		
All kWh Charge (Jan - Mar)	\$0.065	\$0.075
All kWh Charge (Apr - Dec)	\$0.057	\$0.066
Multi-phase Surcharge	\$16.00	\$17.00
Rate 4, Interruptible Service over 25 kVA Transformer		
	Current Rate	New Rate
Monthly Facilities Charge		
First 35,000 kWh (Jan - Mar)	\$0.044	\$0.050
First 35,000 kWh (Apr - Dec)	\$0.042	\$0.048
Over 35,000 kWh (Jan - Mar)	\$0.041	\$0.047
Over 35,000 kWh (Apr - Dec)	\$0.039	\$0.045
Off-peak Heating Rates		
	Current Rate	New Rate
Monthly Off-peak Equipment Chg		
Short-term Control per kWh	\$0.050	\$0.058
Long-term Control per kWh	\$0.035	\$0.040
Security Lighting Service		
	Current Rate	New Rate
100 watt HPS Light Lease		
175 watt MV Light Lease	\$6.00	\$7.00
175 watt MV Light Lease	\$7.00	\$8.00
Standby Service (retain de-energized service only)		
	Current Rate	New Rate
Monthly Charge		
Monthly Charge	\$8.00	\$9.00

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 \$7 charge includes all costs to operate and maintain the light. If you want to add lighting to your yard or work area, give RLEC a call today. 1-800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168

Red Lake Electric Cooperative Security Lights in Service



The home of Don and Annette LaCoursiere of Brooks is festively decorated for the Christmas season, just as it has been for the past 10 years, becoming a must-see of the rural community.
More photos and accompanying story on page 4.

A closer look at your 2009 electric bill

Environmental projects, rising costs create upward pressure on wholesale power rates

As a member of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, you receive your electricity from Minnkota Power Cooperative. Minnkota generates and transmits electricity for Red Lake Electric and 10 other member-owner distribution cooperatives located in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.

In March of 2009, Minnkota will be raising its wholesale rates 13 percent. Approximately 67 percent of your electric bill is made up of wholesale power costs. Listed below are some of the cost increases Minnkota is experiencing, which will result in wholesale rate increases during the next several years.

Young Station Environmental Projects

In order to meet strict regulations set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Minnkota is adding to the emission control equipment at the Young Station. An over-fire air system that reduces nitrogen oxide emissions was installed on Young 2 during its 2007 maintenance outage. Similar equipment will be installed on Young 1 during its next scheduled outage in 2009.

A new sulfur dioxide scrubber will be constructed for Young 1. Enhancements to the Young 2 scrubber are also planned. A new stack will be built for Young 2 to support the more efficient scrubber. The electrical supply systems are also (3729024.01 Dean Joppru) being upgraded to support all of the new emission control equipment and to keep Young 1 and Young 2 as low-cost generation resources for all of the Minnkota member-owners.

In total, \$360 million will be spent on these projects during a short five-year time frame.

Load Growth

The demand for electricity is increasing across the Minnkota service territory. The most recent Power Requirements Study indicates loads are projected to continue growing, on average, about 2.5 percent each year for the next 20 years. Additional baseload generation will be needed to meet increasing demands by the year 2013.

Meeting future load growth means Minnkota will have less electricity to sell into the marketplace when it is not needed by the member-owners. These lost sales opportunities result in reduced yearly revenue, which previously helped offset rising costs.

Construction Materials

The cost of conductor and transformers has risen dramatically in the past several years, for both Minnkota and Red Lake Electric. The cost of construction metals such as steel, aluminum and copper has more than doubled. Transportation expenses for larger items are also more costly.

WAPA Rate Increase

A prolonged drought in the Missouri River Basin has reduced the

ability of Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) to generate electricity at its hydro generation facilities. To meet contract obligations to its customers, WAPA has had to purchase more expensive electricity on the market and, as a result, increased its rates.

The Minnkota system purchases approximately 500 million kilowatt-hours of hydropower annually from WAPA. In 2009, the price Minnkota pays for this energy will be \$2.5 million more than in previous years.

Scheduled Power Plant Outages

Replacement power during planned maintenance outages at the Young Station costs millions of dollars. When a unit is down, which is typically every three years, Minnkota must make arrangements with other regional utilities to purchase the electricity required to serve firm loads. The cost of replacement energy is increasing, primarily due to higher-cost natural gas being utilized in peaking plants to supply this energy.

In 2009, a seven-week maintenance outage is scheduled on Young 1.

Replacement power costs are estimated at \$7 million. Coyote Station has also scheduled a five-week maintenance outage during 2009. In 2010, Young 2 will be down for seven weeks and Minnkota is expecting to spend \$3 million for replacement energy during that time. Maintenance costs, including contract labor, are also on the rise.

Increased Fuel Costs

Just as the price of steel, aluminum and copper has risen, so has the price of coal from Minnkota's mine-mouth supplier. Although the draglines are powered by electricity, the price of diesel fuel used by the giant coal haulers and other coal removal equipment has increased substantially.

In 2009, Minnkota's coal costs from BNI Coal, Ltd. will be \$2.3 million higher than a year ago. Similar or larger cost increases will be experienced at the Coyote Station.

Refinancing of Loans

Minnkota serves as operating agent for the Northern Municipal Power Agency (NMPA) in Thief River Falls. NMPA provides electricity to 12 municipal utilities within the Minnkota service region. Recent requirements to convert variable rate municipal bonds to fixed rates have resulted in higher interest rates. These costs have increased \$2.5 million per year.

Future refinancing efforts are on hold until the municipal bond markets stabilize and rates recede. The credit problems on Wall Street also impact NMPA's use of reserve fund interest, adding about \$1 million to 2009 costs.

Minnkota is careful to manage increasing costs and make adjustments whenever possible.

"Some costs are within our control, while others are not," said David Loer, Minnkota president and CEO. "Meeting new environmental regulations requires significant investments in (2207003.02 Gary Donarski) our power plants, but these new facilities are necessary to keep the plants on line. Despite our cost increases, which are very significant, Minnkota's wholesale rates to the 11 member-owners will remain quite attractive when compared to other utilities, both regionally and nationally."

In total, Minnkota projects wholesale rates will increase nearly 40 percent during the next few years. In the immediate future, this includes a 13 percent increase in 2009, 7 percent in 2010 and 8 percent in 2011.

Despite rising costs, electricity from Minnkota remains the best energy value in the region.

Cookies and Calendars

As a small token of appreciation to our members an open house will be held at Red Lake Electric Cooperative's office December 26 and 29-31.

Stop by for refreshments and Christmas cookies and pick up a 2009 calendar.



Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



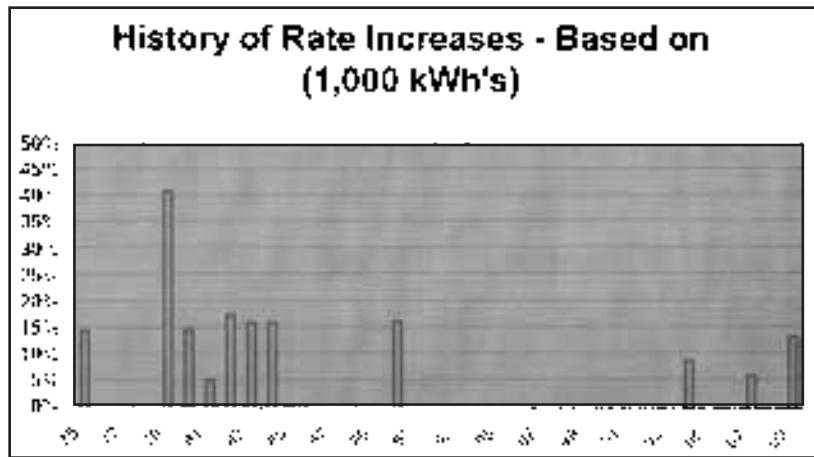
Rate increase

As you may have already read on our front page story this month, our rates for energy will increase with the bill you receive in March 2009. Being the bearer of such news certainly doesn't show up on my long list of things I enjoy doing; especially with Christmas less than a week away. Hopefully the information we have shared in previous issues of the *Volts and Jolts* and at customer meetings has helped prepare you for this increase we knew was coming.

The predictability of this rate increase was possible this time around because we knew the payments from the sale of the DBS television franchise would end in 2008, back when the sale of this business was made in 1999. The other main driver in this year's increase was predictable because of forthcoming regulations placed on our Power Supplier, Minnkota Power Cooperative, by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

I encourage you to read the article, "A closer look at your 2009 electric bill," printed elsewhere in this month's issue of the *Volts and Jolts*. It explains the different projects going on at Minnkota Power that are impacting their cost of generating and delivering energy to Red Lake Electric and the rest of the Minnkota Power Systems.

To give you some perspective of what the EPA emission control expenditures mean for Minnkota Power Cooperative, consider this:



Minnkota will be spending \$360 million over the next five years on environmental upgrades; an amount that will top the investment in the Young 1 and 2 coal fired power plants, which totaled \$300 million when they were built.

Obviously, the timing of Minnkota's increase and the loss of our annual DBS payment is not great, but we can be thankful the venture in the satellite television business worked out good for all Red Lake Electric members. These annual sale proceeds installments received the past 10 years offset revenue we would have had to generate through higher energy rates for all customers.

As a counter to the increased costs faced by Minnkota, Red Lake Electric and ultimately to you, our customers, Red Lake Electric will continue with our conservation improvement program. This pro-

gram is designed to help you use less energy and save you money on your monthly energy bill. I encourage you to think energy efficiency when you make decisions about the products, appliances and heating system you use in your homes and businesses. Efficiency and conservation continue to be the best ways to confront rising energy costs. If you have questions about the feasibility or payback of making an upgrade to your present heating system, please give us a call; we can help you with that.

The "History of Rate Increases" graph shows us we have had higher increases than the one you will see on your March 2009 billing and periods where we have gone years without any increase. As you consider the information provided here, I hope you (2412001.04 Daniel Kujava) find some consolation in knowing that our rates have been among the lowest across the state and nation for rural electric cooperatives and that we have been competitive with other forms of energy. We give you our continued pledge to do what we can to keep it that way.

From the mailbag

DEAR RLEC:

Thank you for the \$50 energy credit I received in observance of Co-op Month.

June Brustad
Mentor

DEAR RLEC:

Thank you so much for your donation of the Skil electric cordless drill to the Pennington County 4-H program. I was very happy to win it at the 4-H Banquet. I already have made good use out of it. Thanks again.

Ethan Peterson
Thief River Falls



Member Service Department

by Kevin Reich

Space heater advertising misleading; don't be fooled

We have all seen or heard ads about portable electric heaters that are "wonder" heaters that can save up to 50 percent of ones home heating costs. This statement could very well be true, but the promoters forget to tell you the rest of the story.

Making use of a portable electric heater, purchasing electricity at the general service rate, may be more economical than using propane or fuel oil, but it is not going to reduce your home heating costs by 50 percent. Be aware, using a portable heater is going to increase your electric bill. If you choose to use a portable (5426001.10 Marc Guillemette) heater and heat only one room, and turn down the thermostat for your home's central heating system, yes, you will reduce your heating costs to a degree. By doing so, you would also greatly reduce the comfort of your home overall and as you move from room to room, you would have to move the portable heater with you, certainly an inconvenience.

Claims have been made that these portable heaters can heat 300 square feet or more. One 1,500 watt heater is not going to do that on a typical winter day in Northwest Minnesota. A 1500 watt heater is capable of heating approximately 150 square feet. Any greater space and the obtainable room temperature certainly will not be comfortable.

These portable electric heaters are not wonder heaters. There is no magic about the heaters regardless of what type of heating unit it is claimed to be. Purchasing a \$50, 1,500 watt portable heater at any hardware store will do the same as any over-priced heater.

Operating a 1,500 watt heater, for one hour, is going to use 1.5 kilowatt hours regardless of what type it is, or whether it cost \$50 or \$400.

Recently a product rating agency rated 16 different space heaters. The heaters were rated on different qualities and features ranging from safety to ease of use. The top rated heater retails for \$60 and the lowest rated heater sells for \$400.

I will share a couple of portable heater stories with you. A customer

told me his neighbor bought three of the \$400 heaters with plans to reduce his home heating costs. (One good thing about a portable heater is you can figure it to operate at 100 percent efficiency. In other words, you have no losses due to combustion or chimney drafts.) In this case the purchaser shut off his air source heat pump to use the portable heaters. He shut down a piece of equipment that operates at 250 to 300 percent efficiency to operate heaters at 100 percent efficiency. This will not reduce his home heating costs.

Another individual purchased four of the \$400 heaters for a total price of \$1,600. This would provide a total of 6,000 watts of heating capacity. He could have purchased a 20,000 watt electric furnace for

less than \$1,000 and had more than three times the heating capacity. Better yet, he could have invested his \$1,600 into an off-peak electric heat system and made a much wiser, longer term investment.

Off-peak electric heat is still the most economical heating option today. Don't be fooled by incomplete advertising and make an unwise energy decision. Making weatherization improvements to your home is a much wiser investment than a portable electric heater. Call Red Lake Electric Cooperative at 218-253-2168 or 1-800-245-6068 if you have questions about home heating.

Holiday wishes

Have a Merry Christmas and a joyful 2009!

Top dairy herds for November DHIA

Randy Rasmussen, supervisor of the Red Lake-Pennington DHIA, put the fol-

lowing herds at top 10 in the association for November.

Name	Cows	% in milk	lbs. milk	test	lbs. fat	protein	lbs. protein
NW Research & Outreach	118	87	71	3.6	2.5	3.3	2.3
Walter Bros. Farm	294	90	63	3.5	2.2	3.1	2.0
Robert and Terri Dahlen	55	84	63	3.4	2.1	3.0	1.9
Northstar Dairy, 3X	894	90	62	3.7	2.3	3.2	2.0
Beyer Bros. Farm	76	91	62	3.2	2.0	3.0	1.9
Tom Jr. & Heather Revier 3X	51	82	62	3.5	2.2	3.0	1.9
Spring Prairie Colony	362	83	58	4.0	2.3	3.1	1.8
E. Duane & Faith Knott	87	86	58	3.5	2.0	3.1	1.8
Amundson Dairy	64	88	58	3.7	2.1	3.2	1.9
Wayra Dairy	216	86	57	3.8	2.2	3.1	1.8

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.

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



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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 \$15 to \$21 month
First 500 KWH 8.0¢ Kwh
Over 500 KWH (April-Dec.) 5.7¢ Kwh
Over 500 KWH (Jan.-Mar.) 6.5¢ Kwh
Multiphase users add \$16/month cost of service charge.

Standby, \$8/month (meter disconnected but the power line retained; standby is not available on services larger than 15 KVA transformer capacity).

Security light, \$6/month, high pressure sodium, \$7/month, mercury vapor; water heater flat credit, \$5/month (on January-April billing); off-peak equipment charge, \$3.50/month per heat meter; off-peak electric heat rate, 3.5¢/kWh long-term control, 5.0¢/kWh short-term control.

Retail Rate Comparison					
Table 1. General Service Billing Comparison (15 KVA transformer)					
Monthly Usage	Current Rate	New Rate	Current Rate	New Rate	Change
100 kWh	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$19.00	\$20.00	\$1.00
200 kWh	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$22.00	\$24.00	\$2.00
300 kWh	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$28.00	\$3.00
400 kWh	\$28.00	\$28.00	\$28.00	\$32.00	\$4.00
500 kWh	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$31.00	\$36.00	\$5.00
600 kWh	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$34.00	\$40.00	\$6.00
700 kWh	\$37.00	\$37.00	\$37.00	\$44.00	\$7.00
800 kWh	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$48.00	\$8.00
900 kWh	\$43.00	\$43.00	\$43.00	\$52.00	\$9.00
1000 kWh	\$46.00	\$46.00	\$46.00	\$56.00	\$10.00
1100 kWh	\$49.00	\$49.00	\$49.00	\$60.00	\$11.00
1200 kWh	\$52.00	\$52.00	\$52.00	\$64.00	\$12.00
1300 kWh	\$55.00	\$55.00	\$55.00	\$68.00	\$13.00
1400 kWh	\$58.00	\$58.00	\$58.00	\$72.00	\$14.00
1500 kWh	\$61.00	\$61.00	\$61.00	\$76.00	\$15.00
1600 kWh	\$64.00	\$64.00	\$64.00	\$80.00	\$16.00
1700 kWh	\$67.00	\$67.00	\$67.00	\$84.00	\$17.00
1800 kWh	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$88.00	\$18.00
1900 kWh	\$73.00	\$73.00	\$73.00	\$92.00	\$19.00
2000 kWh	\$76.00	\$76.00	\$76.00	\$96.00	\$20.00
2100 kWh	\$79.00	\$79.00	\$79.00	\$100.00	\$21.00
2200 kWh	\$82.00	\$82.00	\$82.00	\$104.00	\$22.00
2300 kWh	\$85.00	\$85.00	\$85.00	\$108.00	\$23.00
2400 kWh	\$88.00	\$88.00	\$88.00	\$112.00	\$24.00
2500 kWh	\$91.00	\$91.00	\$91.00	\$116.00	\$25.00

WE PROUDLY PRESENT TO YOU

The Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Customer Service Guarantee

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

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.

One of the Minnkota Power Systems

ROGER JOHANNECK
General Manager

RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.

VOLTS & JOLTS

(USPS 663-400)

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NOTICE

Hidden within the text of the articles on pages 1, 2, 3 and the back page 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 (99-99-99-999-99 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

Pineapple-Raisin Nut Bread

Prep: 15 min. Bake: 50 min.
1 c. sugar
3/4 c. packed brown sugar
1 c. vegetable oil
3 eggs
1 c. crushed pineapple, drained
1 tsp. rum extract
3 c. all-purpose flour
1 tbsp. ground cinnamon
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. ground cloves
1 c. chopped pecans
3/4 c. raisins
In a large mixing bowl, beat the sugars, oil and eggs until smooth. Stir in pineapple and extract. Combine the flour, cinnamon, baking soda, baking powder, salt and cloves; stir into egg mixture just until moistened. Fold in pecans and raisins.
Spoon into two greased 8-in. by 4-in. by 2-in. loaf pans. Bake at 325 degrees for 50 to 55 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks. Yield: 2 loaves.

Minted Orzo

Prep/total time: 15 min.
1 c. uncooked orzo pasta
1 tsp. minced garlic
2 tbsp. olive oil
2 tbsp. butter
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
3 tbsp. minced fresh mint
Cook orzo according to package directions. Meanwhile, in a large skillet, saute garlic in oil and butter for 1 to 2 minutes or until tender.
Drain orzo and add to the skillet. Sprinkle with salt and pepper; toss to coat. Sprinkle with mint. Serve immediately. Yield: 6 servings.

Tart Cranberry Coffee Cake

Prep: 10 min. Bake: 35 min.
1 package (15.6 ounces) cranberry-orange quick bread mix
1 carton (6 ounces) vanilla yogurt
1/3 c. milk
1 egg
1 c. fresh or frozen cranberries
Glaze:
1/2 c. confectioners' sugar
1 tbsp. milk
1/8 to 1/4 tsp. vanilla extract
Place quick bread mix in a large bowl. In a small bowl, whisk the yogurt, milk and egg; stir into the bread mix just until moistened. Fold in cranberries.
Pour into a greased 9-in. deep-dish pie plate. Bake at 375 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes or until golden brown. An easy powdered-sugar glaze drizzled on top gives it a homemade touch. Combine glaze ingredients; drizzle over coffee cake. Serve warm if desired. Yield: 6 to 8 servings.

Cranberry-Orange Pork Chops

Prep/total time: 25 min.
6 boneless pork loin chops (1/2 inch thick and 6 ounces each)
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
1 tbsp. canola oil
1 can (11 ounces) mandarin oranges, drained
1/2 c. chicken broth
1/3 c. dried cranberries
1/4 tsp. ground allspice
1/4 tsp. paprika
Sprinkle pork chops with salt and pepper. In a large skillet, brown chops in oil on both sides.
Add the remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 8 to 10 minutes or until meat juices run clear. Yield: 6 servings.

Ginger Peach Upside-Down Cake

Prep: 10 min. Bake: 35 min.
1/4 c. butter, melted
1/2 c. packed brown sugar
1 can (15-1/4 ounces) sliced peaches, drained and patted dry
1/4 c. red candied cherries, halved
1 package (14-1/2 ounces) gingerbread cake/cookie mix
In a small bowl, combine butter and brown sugar. Spoon into an ungreased 10-in. fluted tube pan. Alternately arrange peaches and cherries in pan. Prepare gingerbread batter according to package directions for cake; carefully pour over fruit.
Bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool for five minutes before inverting onto a serving plate. Cool completely before cutting. Yield: 12 servings.

Gingerbread Pancakes

Prep/total time: 20 min.
1 c. all-purpose flour
2 tbsp. sugar
1 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
1/4 tsp. ground ginger
1/4 tsp. ground allspice
1 egg
3/4 c. milk
2 tbsp. molasses
1 tbsp. vegetable oil
6 tbsp. maple pancake syrup
3/4 c. apple pie filling, warmed
3 tbsp. dried cranberries
In a large bowl, combine the first six ingredients. Combine the egg, milk, molasses and oil; stir into dry ingredients just until moistened.
Pour batter by 1/4 cupfuls onto a greased hot griddle; turn when bubbles form on top. Cook until the second side is golden brown.
To serve, place two pancakes on each plate; drizzle with 2 tbsp. syrup. Top with 1/4 c. apple pie filling; sprinkle with cranberries. Yield: 3 servings.

Arctic Cat advertisement for Arctic Blast '08 & Pre-Season Snowmobile Specials. Includes details on NW MN's Best Selection of New Non-Current Arctic Cat Snowmobiles, current programs like non-current rebates and special financing, and a special truckload purchase offer for new non-current models. Also lists Area's Best Selection of Arctic Cat Snowmobiles, new programs & pricing effective 12/15-12/30, and contact information for RV Sports Inc.

Arctic Cat advertisement for Arctic Cat Prowler. Features a photo of a person riding an Arctic Cat Prowler, the Arctic Cat logo, and promotional text: 'BUY A NEW 2007, 2008 OR 2009 ARCTIC CAT® PROWLER® AND GET: - 3-Year Limited Warranty and 8.9% Financing OR - Free 3000 lb. Winch and 8.9% Financing - Plus Up To \$500 Rebate on '07 & '08 Models'. Also includes contact information for R V Sports Inc.

Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc. Operating Report

MONTHLY COMPARISON

	OCTOBER 2007	OCTOBER 2008
Total Revenue	\$ 574,012	\$ 619,268
Total Margins	\$ (87,454)	\$ (59,374)
Cost of Power	\$ 391,007	\$ 435,593
KWH's Purchased	8,518,079	9,365,933
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 5,845	\$ 12,528

YEAR TO DATE COMPARISON

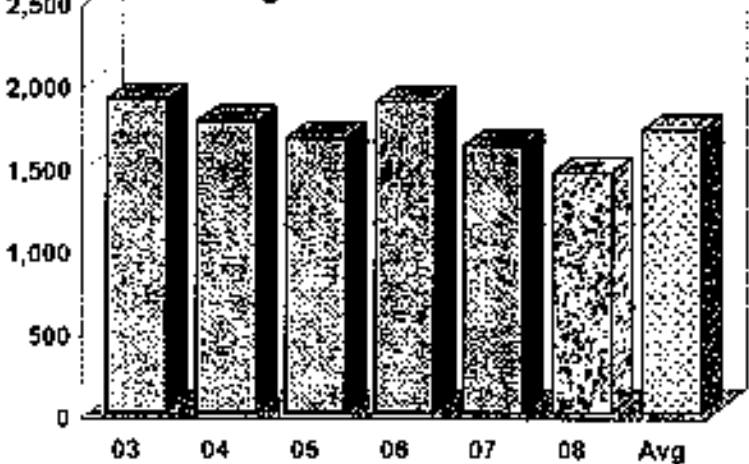
	OCTOBER 2007	OCTOBER 2008
Total Revenue	\$ 6,493,773	\$ 7,299,358
Total Margins	\$ 558,646	\$ 736,354
Cost of Power	\$ 4,159,015	\$ 4,699,181
KWH's Purchased	102,197,895	111,630,093
New Service Connections	41	71
Customers Served	5,093	5,154
Capital Credits Paid to Estates	\$ 93,105	\$ 65,971
Miles of Line		
Overhead	2,327	2,325
Underground	231	233

DEGREE DAYS

To determine degree days, you must calculate the daily mean temperature for the time period you are measuring. Degree day computation is based on the assumption that a building does not require any heat if the outside temperature averages 65 degrees during a 24-hour period. To obtain a degree day figure, the high temperature and the low temperature for the day are added and the total divided by two. That figure is then subtracted from 65. For example, if the high temperature was 30 degrees and the low temperature 10 degrees, the figure would be 30+10=40; 40/2=20; 65-20=45. This would be a 45-degree day. The higher the degree day figure, the more heat required to warm your home.

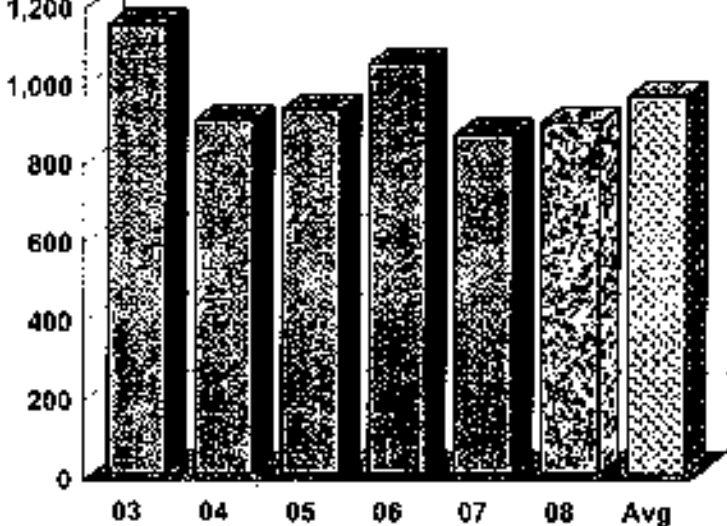
YEAR TO DATE DEGREE DAYS

August 20 to November 20



DEGREE DAYS

October 20 to November 20



Northwest Grain advertisement. Features the text 'Merry Christmas!' in a cursive font, a photo of two snow globes, and the Northwest Grain logo. Below the logo is the text 'we grow value'. At the bottom, it says 'St. Hilaire Ag Insurance' and '315 Broadway Ave North • 218-964-5252'.

Mickelson Eye Clinic, P.A. advertisement. Features the clinic's logo, the name 'Craig R. Mickelson, O.D.', and contact information: 'MeritCare Northwest Medical Center, 126 LaBree Ave. S., PO Box 521, Thief River Falls, MN 56701-0521'. It also lists hours, a phone number (218-683-3937), and a fax number (218-683-4557).

Oklee Farmers Co-op Elevator Association advertisement. Features the text 'Thinking Of You At Christmas' and a photo of a barn. Below the photo is the text 'No matter where you spend the holiday season, know that our best wishes are with you.' The Oklee Farmers Co-op Elevator Association logo is also present. At the bottom, it lists contact information for Oklee (796-5125), Red Lake Falls (253-4294), and Brooks (698-4275), and mentions a grain terminal in Erskine.

Oklee Lumber advertisement. Features the text 'It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year!' and a photo of a snowy landscape. Below the photo is the text 'The snowy ground looks so pretty In the country, town or city; Joy and promise fill the air Spreading goodwill everywhere; But perhaps the best thing to be found, Is when your good friends come around And when you get the chance to say, "Have a happy holiday!"'. The Oklee Lumber logo is also present, along with the phone number 218-796-5131.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Gazette staff

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VOLTS AND JOLTS FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Don and Annette LaCoursiere create a Christmas oasis

The LaCoursiere home is adorned with an extravagant display of Christmas lights and decorations, much to the enjoyment of neighbors and all who drive by.

By Destiny Harmoning

The home of Don and Annette LaCoursiere, located a few miles outside of Oklee, stands vigilant as a beacon of the Christmas spirit.

Don is an over-the-road truck driver with his own equipment that leases to a company out of Moorhead. He travels to Arkansas and Oklahoma every week. Annette is retired but used to work as a cook for the Oklee school. They have six children, Janet, DeeAnn, Ken, Scott, Brian and Steve. They also have 18 grandchildren.

The LaCoursieres, who take great pride in their Christmas decorations, have been decorating their home fervently for the past 10 years.

It all started with one good sale where the LaCoursieres purchased several Christmas decorations for their outdoor display. They received so many compliments that year that they decided to make lavish Christmas decorations an annual tradition.

One of the greatest feelings, according to Don, is when he sees vehicles driving by that deliberately slow down just to peer at the spectacle of lights and ornaments. He said sometimes the driver even spins the car back around to get another look. "That makes it all worthwhile," he stated.

Don and Annette LaCoursiere

The random passerby isn't the only one who enjoys the LaCoursiere Christmas display, a school bus driver, who has a route near the LaCoursieres' home, drives by slowly with children in tow to allow the students a chance to view the display. The children look forward to it every year.

The decorations take the LaCoursieres two to three days to set up, depending on how well the lights are still operating. Each year, a decoration or two falls to the wayside, unable to properly operate; there is always a new one to put in its place.

Usually, one or two new pieces are purchased each year, though they don't always make it into the display.

New items are purchased when they find a sale or some are given as gifts, such as the nativity set which was given to the LaCoursieres from their children.

Some advances in the decorations that have been made at the LaCoursieres include switching over to LED lights in many of their displays and using a timer on everything to ensure no wasted energy. Everything is plugged into a timer, including all of the decorations on the inside. The lights turn on around 4:30 in the afternoon and turn off around 8 a.m.

The LaCoursieres' display is typically set up the weekend following the Thanksgiving holiday, but this year, the LaCoursieres were a little behind. One neighbor even joked about how their house "looked a little dark this year."

Though the LaCoursieres aren't sure

how much the lights actually cost them on their electric bill, they stated that it wouldn't matter anyways. "It's worth whatever it costs," Don said.

Christmas isn't the only holiday that gets attention at the LaCoursiere home, though

it does shine above the rest. A few items are displayed at each of the major holidays including Easter, Halloween and the Fourth of July. This year's Fourth of July display will be even more extravagant, to honor the Oklee Centennial.

The LaCoursieres don't intend to stop decorating for the holidays any time soon. As long as people still enjoy it, the LaCoursieres will continue to provide holiday cheer in the form of twinkling lights and festive displays.

This nativity set in the LaCoursieres' yard was given to them as a gift from their children.

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High-tech thermostats offer potential savings

Keeping your home hot or cold, depending on the season, accounts for a big chunk of your annual budget. In fact, the average U.S. homeowner spends \$2,500 a year on home energy with 56 percent, or \$1,400, going toward heating and cooling costs.

Not surprisingly, savings can add up in a hurry when heating and cooling systems are tweaked for maximum efficiency. You can easily trim your energy bills in winter by setting the thermostat at 68 degrees while you're awake and back a few degrees when to go to sleep or are away from home.

Even better, turning your thermostat back 10 to 15 degrees for eight hours can save about five to 15 percent a year on your heating bill, or about one percent for each degree. Savings may be even greater for homes in milder climates.

The location of your thermostat can greatly affect its performance and efficiency.

Place thermostats away from direct sunlight, drafts, doorways, skylights and windows. Read the manufacturer's instructions to prevent "ghost readings" or unnecessary furnace or air conditioner cycling.

Installing a programmable thermostat can take the thought out of saving energy.

Your heating and cooling system will ramp up or switch off according to a preset time of day or even day of the week. Most models let you manually override the schedule without affecting the rest of the daily or weekly program.

Programmable thermostats are generally not recommended for heat pumps. In cooling mode, a heat pump operates like an air conditioner, so turning up the thermostat will save energy and money. But when a heat pump works in its heating mode, setting back the thermostat can cause the unit to operate inefficiently, thereby canceling out any savings achieved by lowering the temperature. Maintaining a moderate setting is the most cost-effective practice.

To automatically manage elec-



tric resistance systems, such as electric baseboard heating, steam

heating or radiant floor heating, you will need to purchase a programmable thermostat specifically designed for the task. Of course, when shopping for a programmable thermostat, always look for the EnergyStar® label. More information on what may be right for your home can be found at energystar.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

Take the chill out of winter fun

While freezing winter temperatures keep most adults indoors to escape the cold, we know that children may want to play outside all day. The Minnesota Safety Council and Safe Kids Minnesota offer the following tips to help parents and caregivers supervise their children's play.

Frostbite. Being out in the cold without enough protection can result in frostbite. Be sure to:

- Dress children warmly in several layers of clothing. Children should wear boots, gloves or mittens and a hat.
- Set reasonable time limits on outdoor play. Call children in periodically to warm up.
- Limit the amount of time that infants are outdoors when it is colder than 40 degrees. Infants lose body heat quickly.

Ice skating. In 2005, the latest information available, nearly 11,000 children ages 5 to 14 were treated in hospital emergency rooms for ice skating-related injuries. Children should skate only on approved areas. Check for posted signs or call local park and recreation departments to find a safe place to skate. Children should be taught to:

- Skate in the same direction as the crowd and avoid darting across the ice.
- Never skate alone.

Sledding. This popular activity injured approximately 20,000 children ages 5 to 14 in 2005. Parents

and caregivers should look for:

- Gently sloping hills that are free of rocks and other obstacles and far from traffic. Hills should be covered with packed snow, not ice.
- Sturdy and safe equipment, with no sharp or jagged edges.
- Energy absorbing pads on sled seats. Teach children it's better to sit up while riding downhill; lying flat increases the chance of head and abdominal injuries.
- Easy steering.

Remind children never to ride in a sled that is being pulled by a car.

Skiing and snowboarding. More than 29,000 children ages 5 to 14 were treated in emergency rooms for injuries related to snow skiing and snowboarding in 2005. Parents should make sure that children:

- Enroll in at least one skiing or snowboarding lesson to start off on the right track.
- Use caution when entering or exiting the ski lift.
- Be aware of other people on the slope and never ski alone. Young children should always be supervised by an adult.
- Wear sunglasses and sunscreen even on cloudy days.

Winter storm safety

By Chris Grammes

Snow and ice storms are an inevitable part of the winter season. However, they can lead to downed power lines and outages. Remember the following tips to stay safe and warm should you find yourself in the dark after a severe winter event:

- Never touch a fallen power line and assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. Call Red Lake Electric Cooperative at 218-253-2168 or 800-245-6068 to report it immediately. Avoid contact with overhead lines during cleanup and other activities.
- In the event of an outage, an alternate heating source, such as a fireplace, propane space heater or wood stove, may be used. Extreme caution should be taken.
- Plan to stay in an area of the home where the alternate heat source is located.
- Fuel- and wood-burning heating sources should be vented. Be

sure to follow manufacturer's directions.

- Make sure carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors are working properly.
- Do not use a gas-powered oven for heating. A gas oven may go out or burn inefficiently, leading to carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Do not use a gas or charcoal grill inside the home. Do not use charcoal briquettes in the fireplace.
- If you use a portable generator to power a heating source, be sure the generator is located outside your house for proper ventilation. Do not use a generator in an attached garage. Follow manufacturer's directions for operating the generator.
- Take special care not to overload a generator. Use appropriately sized extension cords to carry the electric load. Make sure the cords have a grounded, three-pronged plug and are in good condition.
- Never run cords under rugs or

carpets.

- Never connect generators to power lines. The reverse flow of electricity can electrocute an unsuspecting utility worker.

Ideally, your family will stay warm until the power comes back on. But keep an eye on family members for signs of hypothermia, which include shivering, drowsiness and mental and physical slowness. The elderly and young children are particularly vulnerable to hypothermia. Call 911 immediately if you notice these symptoms. At least one telephone in the house that does not depend on electricity should be available in the case of a power outage.

Sources: Consumer Product Safety Commission; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and National Ag Safety Database.

Chris Grammes writes on safety issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Legal truck weight loads have increased

Allowable winter load limits on highways in the north frost zone increased by 10 percent Dec. 5, the Minnesota Department of Transportation announced.

The north frost zone's boundaries extend south from the Canadian border to a line following Highway 1, Highway 89, Highway 2, Highway 33 and Interstate 35 at the Carlton-St. Louis county line and then south to the Wisconsin border.

State law allows a 10 percent weight increase on all state highways and unrestricted, nine-ton capacity county roads in the designated zones. However, trucks must comply with current registration weight laws and may not exceed gross weight limits.

Gross vehicle weight is capped at 80,000 pounds on nine-ton township and city routes.

A winter weight load increase permit is required for truckers operating on interstate routes. Mn/DOT advises that haulers check with local agencies before carrying increased loads on their roads. Signs erected on the roadway govern the load limit in effect.

For information about legal

weight/size trucking, call the Minnesota Department of Public Safety at 651-405-6196. For information about over legal weight/size heavy haul trucking, call Mn/DOT at 651-296-6000.

Load increases are permitted because pavements achieve increased strength to carry heavier

loads when their sub-grades freeze.

Mn/DOT continues to monitor the other frost zones to determine when it can allow additional weight increases.

For the most current information, call Mn/DOT's automated 24-hour message center at 800-723-6543.

Contractor training set for February

Minnkota Power Cooperative and the associated systems will once again be hosting a Professional Contractor Program in 2009. This marks the 21st year of the successful program, aimed at providing area trade allies with the latest information in building and electrical practices.

The program is scheduled to begin Friday, Feb. 6, at the Doublewood Inn, Fargo, N.D. The training then moves to the Hampton Inn, Bemidji, Wednesday, Feb. 11 and concludes at the Ramada Inn, Grand Forks, N.D., Thursday, Feb. 12. Registration starts at 7:15 a.m. each day. Courses begin at 8 a.m. and conclude at 5 p.m.

The cost is \$60 per attendee and includes a noon hour lunch. Cancellations will be refunded in full with prior notification up to the day

before each workshop is held.

Note that eight CEU credits for both the electrical and builder workshops have been applied for and that contractors cannot attend more than one location to earn more than the eight CEU credits offered. The same course material will be presented at each location.

A brochure detailing the course descriptions and registration instructions will be mailed in late December. Completed registration forms need to be returned by Jan. 31. This information will also be posted on the Web at www.minnkota.com.

For more information about the program, contact Lisa Pickard, Minnkota communication/member services specialist, at 701-795-4218 or e-mail questions to lpickard@minnkota.com.



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Extension cord safety for the holidays

As the holiday season is upon us, festive decorations and colorful lights are displayed on and in homes. Extension cords are widely used to carry electricity where it is needed, offering a convenient solution for delivering power right where we need it. However, extension cords are meant to provide a temporary solution and should not be treated as a long-term or permanent extension of your household's electrical system. With continuous and excessive use, these cords can rapidly deteriorate, creating a potentially dangerous electric shock or fire hazard.

If used improperly, extension cords can cause injury and death. Extension cords are a leading cause of electrical fires. The CPSC cites short circuits, overloading and damage and/or misuse of extension cords as the leading causes of extension cord fires.

This article explains how to select the right extension cords for



your needs and provides information about how to avoid common mistakes that can quickly become serious electrical hazards this holiday season.

- Extension Cord Safety Tips**
- Make sure electrical cords are

- in good condition. Cracking and fraying are signs that the electrical cord needs to be replaced.
- Do not run cords under furniture, carpeting or behind baseboards.
- Do not place extension cords across walkways or other high traffic areas.
- Do not substitute extension cords for permanent wiring.
- Do not run cords through walls, doorways, ceilings or floors. If cord is covered, then heat cannot escape and a fire hazard may result.
- Do not use an extension cord for more than one appliance at a time.
- Multiple plug outlets must be plugged directly into mounted electrical receptacles - they cannot be chained together.
- Never use a cord that feels hot or is damaged in any way. Touching even a single exposed strand can give you an electric shock or burn.
- Never force a plug into an out-

- let if it doesn't fit. This includes using three-prong plugs with outlets that only have two slots for the plug and cutting off the ground pin to force a fit.
- If the rating on the cord is exceeded, either change to a cord with a higher rating or unplug some appliances.
- Use cords with polarized and/or three-prong plugs. A polarized plug is a plug with one large or wide prong and one narrow one. It ensures that the plug is inserted correctly in a socket and reduces the risk of electrical shock.
- Purchase cords that have been approved by an independent testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), ETL-SEMKO (ETL) or Canadian Standards Association (CSA).

Five Steps for Selecting an Extension Cord

1. Determine your needs.
2. Check the total wattage of the electrical devices that will be plugged into the cord.
3. Divide that sum by 120 to calculate the total number of amps you will need.
4. Check the rating, or the gauge, of the extension cord which will be displayed as a number followed by the letters AWG. AWG is the abbreviation for American Wire Gauge, a standard measurement of electrical wiring.
5. If the total wattage is equal to or greater than the maximum rating of the cord, then you will need a higher rated extension cord.

Extension Cord Safety Statistics

- On average, an estimated 4,000 injuries associated with electric extension cords are treated in hospital emergency rooms each year (CPSC).
- Nearly 50 percent of these injuries involve fractures, lacerations, contusions or sprains caused by tripping over an extension cord.
- Thirteen percent of these injuries involve children under five years of age.
- Electrical burns to the mouth account for about half the injuries to young children (CPSC).
- An estimated 3,300 residential fires originate from extension cords each year, killing and injuring more than 300 people (CPSC).
- Seventy-eight percent of Americans use extension cords as a

State park permits now on sale

Just in time for holiday gift giving, the 2009 Minnesota state park annual permit is now on sale. It features a winter scene from Schoolcraft State Park in northeastern Minnesota to represent the theme of "quiet places." Schoolcraft will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2009. Bemidji photographer Richard Jensen supplied the image for the new permit.

The purchase of an annual Minnesota state park permit for \$25 provides unlimited access to special events, scenic places, historic sites, a whole roster of outdoor activities and just plain fun at Minnesota's 72 state parks and recreation areas for a full year from the month of purchase. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), there is a state park within

30 miles of almost every Minnesota and the parks are all open 365 days a year from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

"We're approaching the time of year when many people make resolutions to get in better shape and there are many ways to get and stay fit in Minnesota state parks," said Courtland Nelson, DNR Parks and Recreation Division director. "For \$25, you can give a whole family the gift of an outdoor health club and the memories they'll have of camping, hiking, paddling and exploring together will last a lifetime."

Annual permits can be purchased at any Minnesota state park or by calling the DNR Information Center at 888-MINNDNR (646-6367).

permanent power supply rather than their intended temporary use (ESFI)

- Sixty-six percent of homeowners anticipate using at least one extension cord to power outdoor decorations this holiday season.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety.

It's A Winter Wonderland

...And a round of applause for you, our loyal customers and friends. Here's hoping your holiday delivers lots of peace, harmony and joy. Merry Christmas and thanks!

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Red Lake County Cooperative, Inc.

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Your key to buy, sell or trade anything is the CLASSIFIEDS

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.

Real Estate

FOR SALE – Four 25x150' lots with small partially remodeled house. Located 10 miles NW of Thief River Falls, MN. 218-681-3163.

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Want Ad Order Form

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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.

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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:
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Holiday Office Hours

Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters will be closed Christmas Day, December 25 and New Year's Day, 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!



Portable generators can be dangerous

Portable generators offer a reliable alternative source of electricity during temporary electrical power outages caused by weather-related damages and power grid failures. However, these devices pose very serious health and safety risks if installed or operated incorrectly. Knowing the health and safety dangers that are associated with portable generator use could save your life this holiday season. The primary hazards to be aware of when using a portable generator are carbon monoxide poisoning,

for the load, are free of cuts or worn insulation and have three-pronged plugs.

- Do not overload portable generators. Generators should be used only when necessary and then only to power essential equipment or appliances.
- Never operate generators in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces.
- Always use carbon monoxide detectors in nearby enclosed spaces to monitor levels. Generators can produce toxic levels of carbon

the manufacturer's instructions.

- Even with a CO detector, never use a gasoline-powered generator inside your home or garage.
- Opening doors and windows or operating fans to ventilate will not prevent CO build-up in the home.
- Have a licensed electrician install a generator in your home in order to be certain that it is in compliance with local codes and regulations.

⚠ DANGER

Using a generator indoors **WILL KILL YOU IN MINUTES.**

Exhaust contains carbon monoxide, a poison gas you cannot see or smell.



NEVER use in the home or in partly enclosed areas such as garages.



ONLY use outdoors and far from open windows, doors, and vents.



electrical accidents or electrocution and fire.

This article explains how to use portable generators properly and outlines useful safety precautions to help you stay safe from related electrical dangers during the winter months.

To learn more about the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) and holiday safety, visit www.holiday-safety.org.

Portable Generator Safety Tips

- Never use portable generators inside of a home, garage, basement, crawl space or carport.
- Check smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors monthly.
- Keep generators dry at all times.
- Make sure that extension cords used with generators are rated

monoxide very quickly.

- Make sure your generator is properly grounded. Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries.
- Store fuel for the generators in properly labeled containers away from living areas and fuel-burning appliances.
- Before re-fueling, always turn the generator off and let it cool down.
- Turn off all appliances being powered by the generator before shutting down the generator.
- Keep children away from portable generators at all times.
- Never connect generators directly to household wiring without an appropriate transfer switch installed.
- Install carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in your home according to

Delivering Our Best



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!

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VERY MERRY GREETINGS

We hope your holiday is decorated with love, laughter and friendship. May the blessings of the season surround you and bring you much happiness and good fortune throughout the year.



Season's Greetings

May your holidays be blessed with warmth of home, the light of peace and the love of family and friends.

A merry Christmas and a happy New Year is extended to our members.

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The 8300 Series Rock Flex® disc harrows represent the industry's first all-new Class III Primary tandem discs in over a decade. Designed for the toughest Bt corn residue and deep penetration in tough soils, the 8300 Series is offered in three sizes (31', 34' and 37'). More aggressive gang angles and a significant weight increase over all-purpose tandems means the 8300 Series delivers better residue cutting and mixing for a "blackier" soil appearance. Choose from 9" front and 10" rear blade spacing for small grains/dry land use or 10" front and rear blade spacing for high yielding corn residue.

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