

HUNTING SAFETY REMINDER

Before you head into the woods, make sure electrical safety is part of your check list:

- Never install stands or blinds on utility poles or near electrical equipment.
- Stay at least 10 feet from overhead power lines when climbing or placing a tree stand.
- Don't aim or shoot near power lines, poles or substations.
- Always assume power lines are live and dangerous, even if they appear inactive.

*Powered
for You*
Thankful for you

Celebrating our members and the communities we are proud to serve

Happy Thanksgiving



STAFF COMMENTS

Director of Operations

by Thomas Guenther

As we head into November and prepare for another Minnesota winter, I think it is worth taking a moment to talk about some of the work that happens behind the scenes to keep the lights on. When you flip a switch, you probably don't think about the miles of power lines, poles, transformers, and other equipment that make it possible. As an operations team, we spend a lot of time inspecting, maintaining, and improving that system because we know how important reliable electricity is to our members. Much of this work may not be noticeable when everything is working as it should, and that's exactly the point.

One area that plays a major role in reliability is vegetation management. Trees and vegetation can cause significant problems for an electric system, especially when we experience heavy snow, ice, or strong winds. A healthy tree growing too close to a power line can quickly become an outage when winter weather

arrives. Our vegetation management program allows us to identify these potential problems before they cause an interruption in service. This includes trimming trees, removing hazardous vegetation, and maintaining the rights-of-way that provide our crews with safe access to the system.

We also look at vegetation management as more than simply cutting trees. Whenever possible, we want to create and maintain rights-of-way that are both functional and environmentally responsible. Low-growing grasses, wildflowers, and other compatible vegetation can provide benefits for pollinators and wildlife while reducing the need for repeated tree and brush control. A well-managed right-of-way helps us maintain reliable power while also being a good neighbor to the landowners and communities we serve.

The same philosophy applies to our equipment maintenance. Our crews regularly inspect poles,

lines, transformers, and other equipment looking for issues that could become larger problems down the road. We would much rather find a problem during a routine inspection and address it on our schedule than discover it during a January snowstorm or an August thunderstorm. Preventative maintenance isn't always the most visible part of our job, but it is one of the most important things we can do to provide safe and dependable service.

At the end of the day, reliability doesn't happen by accident. It comes from the daily work of our employees, the planning and investment made by the cooperative, and the cooperation of the landowners and members we serve. As we head into another winter, I want our members to know that our crews are continuing to work year-round to maintain the system and prepare for whatever Mother Nature brings our way.

Highlights from the Board Room:

The Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on August 25, 2026. During the meeting, the Board was joined by Minnesota Senator Rob Kupec to discuss energy issues and the rise of data centers as they relate to rural electric cooperatives.

A quorum of directors was present and the following actions were taken:

- **Approved** the board minutes and financial reports and statements for July 2026
- **Appointed** a delegate and alternate for the CFC District 5 & 6 Annual Meeting
- **Rescheduled** the regular February board meeting to Friday, February 26, 2027
- **Accepted** the Policy Review Committee report
- **Accepted** the management department reports
- **Accepted** the Minnkota Power report
- **Accepted** the MREA report

The November regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, November 24, 2026.

SAFETY TIP

Stay safe this season

- **Cook safely:** Keep cooking areas clear and never leave the stovetop unattended.
- **Protect kids and pets:** Keep them at least 3 feet away from hot surfaces and boiling liquids.
- **Check heating equipment:** Inspect space heaters and fireplaces, and keep anything flammable well away from heat sources.



Wild Rice Electric Cooperative is now on both Facebook and Instagram. Give us a follow and stay connected with your cooperative.



Please join us in welcoming two new employees **Nicole Hoban** and **Teddy Busse**. Nicole has joined our team as an Accounting Specialist and brings more than 10 years of experience in accounts payable, along with strong customer service skills. Nicole calls rural Callaway home and enjoys spending time at the lake, fishing, ice fishing and stitching. Teddy joins Wild Rice Electric Cooperative as our new Director of Member Services and Communications bringing more than 20 years of experience in customer service, leadership and employee development. Local to Mahanomen his connection to the area provides a unique understanding and appreciation for the communities we serve.



A big THANK YOU to everyone who came out to help us celebrate Cooperative Celebration Day at Wild Rice Electric! We truly value our members and always enjoy the opportunity to visit, catch up and see you at events like this.

A special thank you to our partners at Minnkota Power Cooperative for joining us and providing safety demonstrations, along with rides and drives in their all-electric Chevy Silverado, nicknamed "Sylvie."

**Our office will
be closed on the
following dates:**

**Wednesday,
November 11 –
Veterans Day**

**Thursday and Friday,
November 26, 27 –
Thanksgiving**

**We wish everyone
a safe and happy
holiday season.**

Ads

For Sale

5- Goodyear Wrangler "Trail Runner AT" Tires. 235/75R15 Mounted & balanced, approx, 100 miles on tread. 5- LEGEND SERIES Chrome Rims. Brand new/never used. Accepts 235/75R15, maybe others, (218) 473-2513.

Oak cut up firewood & some mixed. Reasonable, near Fertile, call (701) 212-6387 or (218) 945-6202, lv message.

Electric operated Hoyer Lift, span America Model F500P comes w/ 3 slings, bought new in March 2025 for \$2,700 asking \$1,350, (218) 849-9584.

Minnkota MK315D three bank battery charger for lead acid & AGM. Comes w/one fairly new Interstate SRM-27 deep cycle battery, \$135, Detroit Lakes area, (701) 371-3930.

Walk behind snowblower 8-24, new tires (as is). Chaparral snowmobile, (218) 584-4603.

1999 Polaris Big Boss 6X6. 4 cycle, new battery & 1871 miles, good, can text pictures, asking \$3,000. 318 engine w/ about 75,000 miles, 904 transmission & steering column out of a 1968 Dodge Charger, \$1,000, (218) 431-0174.

4"hydraulic, 30"shaft, wheeled, 3 yr old motor, new joy coupling, \$500. Easily split garmeled 2' dia block, (701) 412-5996.

Little Golden Childrens classic books \$3 ea, firm great condition. 2 bakers racks, 1 collapsible, \$50 ea, firm, (701) 866-7851.

New & used Jenkins brand skid steer attachments. Various sizes snow and dirt buckets plus lots more, (701) 261-3574.

1995 Chevy van G20. Good shape. Clean. 350 engine 191,700 miles. Dependable. Air, radio. Newish metal bulkhead w/ door, \$2,800, (701) 318-7189.

Livestock guardian puppies. 3/4 Great Pyrenees, 1/4 Newfoundland. 6 boys, 2 girls. Born 10/8, ready to go mid Dec. Older puppies ready to go. Good around animals. Potty & crate trained, good on leash, txt (218) 275-9739.

Mixed hardwood firewood available \$175 a cord, will load, hauling extra, (218) 204-0496.

New Stihl BGA57 leaf blower & charger. Jiffy ice auger new blades, \$30. HD transfer pump for oil-gas, \$35. PU brk controller kit- book, \$50. New Delco alternators, \$50 ea. EDel Brock performance carb, \$100, (218) 849-8963.

2015 Ford F250 Super Cab red pickup, Lariat package, 72k miles, excellent, \$31K. 2005 Toyota Sienna silver van, 203K miles, good condition, \$4,400. 4 Michelin X-Ice winter tires w/ rims & tire pressure sensors, 215/60R16, came off of a Toyota Camary. Tires stored inside. \$200. Vercelli all year tire, 245/55R19, used 1,000 miles. \$75. Oak dining room

48" round pedestal table w/ 24" leaf, \$200. 2 Burgundy synthetic leather over stuffed reclining chairs, some scratches, \$75 ea. Dark Brown synthetic leather over stuffed chair, \$25. Oak oval coffee table 45"x23"x16 1/2" tall, good shape, \$30. King size head board, white metal w/ painted flower glass balls, \$20.2 dark bronze floor lamps w/ brown frosted glass globes, \$10 ea. 2 blue child kayaks - \$25 ea, (763) 516-3886.

Old steel N wood wheels. 2 saw arbor w/ saw blades. Cow stanchions, lots of other old stuff, maple syrup, animal traps, tanned furs, native crafts, (218) 375-3109 or (218) 401-0791.

1991 F150 4x4 \$1,500 OBO. Two Olympic Ski-Doo Snowmobiles: 1970-399 & 1973-340, offer, (701) 205-9789.

Hoyt Intruder Compound Bow. 70#. Recently tuned. Comes with a nice Scheels bag, Arrows, & a target. (701) 371-6431.

2025 Snapper 6,500 Running, 8,200 Starting Watts Gasoline Portable Generator #30834 w/ electric start, used for 1/2 day. Also has propane adapter hoe, wheels & extension handle. \$545, Text (701) 741-8293.

New - Weg Farm Duty Electric Motors 1. 1/2 HP, 1760 RPM, 1 phase, 115-230 volt, 56 Frame, Totally enclosed, \$175. 2. 2 HP, 1760 RPM, 1 phase, 115-230 volt, 145 T Frame, Totally enclosed \$375. Polyrex EM Grease - 10 tubes, \$70, call (218) 331-5696.

2 gas generators, new. Ceiling fans. 110 or 12 volt cooler. Gas chain saws. Lots of tools, (218) 841-0992.

265 gal green fuel tank w/ gauge& stand, like new, \$50, (218) 686-4502.

Wanted

Rocking chair, overstuffed-bicycle. Old model Kenmore washing machine in usable condition, (701) 318-7189.

- Ads are due by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

- Email ads to: info@wildriceelectric.com

- Mail ads to: Wild Rice Electric Co-op
PO Box 438
Mahnomen, MN 56557

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, and our partners will again provide an opportunity for area electricians to obtain credits for license renewal by attending one of the six continuing education classes being offered throughout eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. Instructor Tim Pull will cover the 2027 National Electrical Code (NEC) changes and other important NEC rules.

The seminars are approved in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota for eight hours of continuing education credit necessary for renewing electrical licenses. The classes will be held at the following locations:

Wednesday, January 6, 2027
Fargo Holiday Inn
3803 13th Avenue South
Fargo, ND

Thursday, January 7, 2027
Fargo Holiday Inn
3803 13th Avenue South
Fargo, ND

Thursday, January 14, 2027
Bemidji Eagles Club
1270 Neilson Avenue SE
Bemidji, MN

Thursday, January 21, 2027
Bigwood Event Center
921 Western Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN

Wednesday, February 3, 2027
Minnkota Power Cooperative
5301 32nd Avenue South
Grand Forks, ND

Thursday, February 4, 2027
Minnkota Power Cooperative
5301 32nd Avenue South
Grand Forks, ND

This marks the 39th year of the successful program, which is aimed at providing area trade allies with the latest information on electrical code and practices.

Taking the class on multiple days will not qualify for 16 code credits.

The registration fee is \$85 for eight code credits. Registration can be done online at minnkota.com and must be completed at least seven days prior to the seminar. For residential building contractor continuing education workshops, contact your local home builders association.

**REGISTER
ONLINE AT
MINNKOTA.COM**

For more info about the program,
please call (701) 670-1899 or e-mail
any questions to contractortraining@minnkota.com
\$85 TO REGISTER FOR EIGHT CREDITS

STAY WARM. Be Prepared.

DO YOU HAVE OFF-PEAK?



BE PREPARED

Off-peak systems are often controlled during periods of high demand, such as cold winter mornings.



CHECK YOUR SYSTEM

If you have a backup heat source, make sure it's working safely and properly.



CHECK YOUR FUEL

Keep your fuel oil and propane filled and ready for when it's needed.

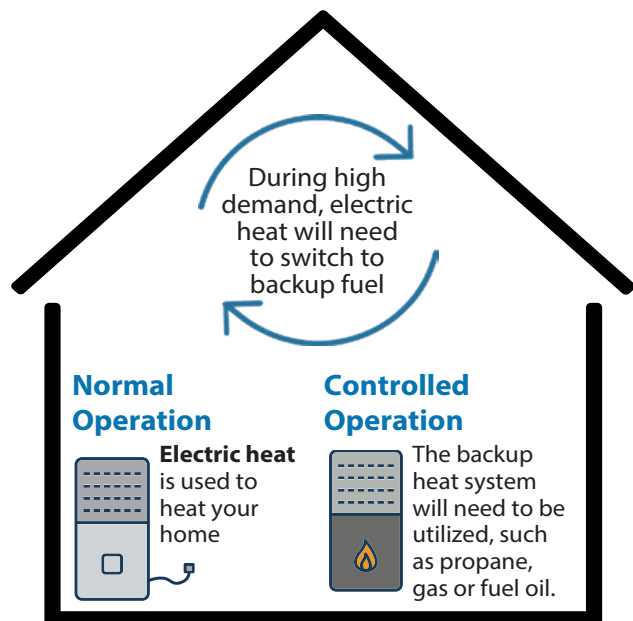


WE ARE PREPARING FOR 200 HOURS

of estimated demand response this winter. Last winter Minnkota Power Cooperative controlled our dual-fuel systems 143 hours.

WHAT IS A DUAL-FUEL HEATING SYSTEM?

A dual-fuel system uses electricity as its primary heat source and a backup fuel, such as propane, natural gas or fuel oil. When your electric heat is controlled during periods of high demand, your backup heat takes over to keep your home warm.



ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below the state median income (\$73,969 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2027.

To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance.

Mahube Community Council

PO Box 76
Mahnomon, MN 56557
(218) 935-5022

PO Box 747
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502
(218) 847-1385

White Earth Energy Assistance Program

3303 US Hwy 59/ PO Box 418
White Earth, MN 56591
(218) 473-2711 or (888) 458-1385

West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc.

715 11th St N Suite 100
Moorhead, MN 56560
(800) 492-4805/ (218) 685-4486

Inter County Community Council

PO Box 189
Oklee, MN 56742
(218) 796-5144/ (888) 778-4008

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council

1407 Erskine St/ PO Box 607
Crookston, MN 56716
(218) 281-5832/ (800) 584-7020

Wild Rice Electric Cooperative exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact us immediately to work out a mutually agreeable payment plan.

Don't be caught in the dark

With daylight saving time ending **November 1** and sunsets now arriving earlier, Wild Rice Electric Cooperative reminds members that we're here to help brighten things up.

For **\$12.50** a month, Wild Rice Electric will install a yard light on one of our existing poles at your location.

If interested, visit our website **wildriceelectric.com** and click on the Yard Light Agreement Form link on the home page or call our office at **1-800-244-5709**.



PERIODICAL

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& Roger Winter

District 3: Randy Bjornson

President & CEO Tommy Houdek

*This Institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*

Celebrate WITH SAVINGS LED Holiday Lighting Rebate

Mail to:
Wild Rice Electric
PO BOX 438
Mahanomen MN 56557



Purchase LED Christmas plug-in (not battery operated) lights and decorations in 2026.
Complete this rebate form and submit it to Wild Rice Electric by December 31, 2026 with a
copy of your sales receipt and the packaging showing the number of lights per string. ENERGY
STAR LEDs are recommended.

Rebate cannot exceed 50% of the cost. Maximum of five strings per member.

Lights per string	# of strings	Rebate per string	Total rebate
Fewer than 99		\$3	
100-199		\$6	
200-299		\$9	
Greater than 300		\$12	

NAME

ACCOUNT

INSTALLATION ADDRESS

CITY/ ZIP

PHONE #