

They are there through all seasons.

Minnesota lineworkers face the coldest, most dangerous winters in the country.

Minnesota lineworkers sweat through humidity-soaked Midwest summers.

Minnesota lineworkers rise high into winds with gusts that just don't quit.

Minnesota lineworkers trudge through water, mud and snow – in the same week.

Minnesota lineworkers are reliable through all seasons. It's no wonder your cooperative electricity is reliable too.



National Lineworker Appreciation Day
April 12, 2021

Finding injection perfection / 4-7

Power over the market / 8-9

#ThankALineworker

Member Service Report

Happy spring! Looking at the cover of this edition of the PKM News, you see the PKM lineworkers that are there 24 hours a day making sure our lights are always on. They are always there when that call comes in, no matter the time and what the weather may be. If you see them out in our service area, be sure to thank them for everything they do. It takes a special person to go out in severe weather conditions or boat through flooded waters to restore power.

This would normally be our annual meeting report, but with COVID we have decided to have it back at the

Sky-Vu Drive In, same as last year. The meeting will be held July 13, and I am told it will be a family-friendly movie that night. With the compliments we had from last year's meeting, it made sense to have it back at Sky-Vu again.

There are a couple things I want to let you know about. This year we are contracting with USIC Locating Services to do our Gopher State One Call locates. This should save us some money and free up time for other work. If you are doing any excavating, we want you to still call the 811 number. This does not cover your personal wires – only utility wires. If you want your wires located you can have them do it, call your electrician or contact PKM. This will be an added charge no matter who you have do it.

We are just about done changing our Tabor substation from PLC (power-line communication) meters to RF (radio frequency) meters. We have had an RF pilot project on that substation for a few years now. We are also going to be changing the meters on the Alvarado and Robbin substations. We are currently looking at a vendor to do this for us and when that is decided, we will let you know who that vendor is. The Alvarado substation covers meters from Oslo to Warren, north and south of Highway 1. Robbin substation runs

along the Red River north of #5 west of Stephen and north of Highway 11 going into Drayton. This will hopefully be finished by year-end and we are going to schedule two substations a year for the next few years.

PKM received a safety grant from the Minnesota Department of Labor. CFO Karen Olson applied for the \$10,000 grant and PKM was approved. PKM used this money to purchase new battery-powered tools for the trucks.

Construction season will soon start, and we currently have cable on order to plow but are not sure when we will get it and what the price may be. We have seen our material prices jump drastically and we are seeing longer wait times on switches and transformers. Make sure you call Joe Marcotte at the office if you are looking at any projects for this summer. With extended lead times, we need to make sure we can get the materials to do these projects.

The PKM board approved a capital credit retirement from 1996 and it is showing up on your PKM bill this month. This only applies to you if you had been a member of PKM in 1996. Until next time, be safe and please use 811 before you dig.

— **Jeff Rustad**, PKM member service manager

Electrical Inspectors

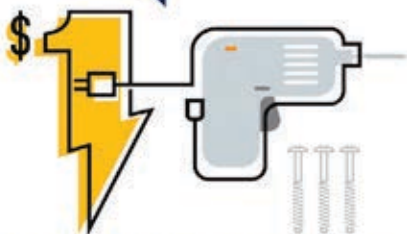
Marshall and Kittson Counties

Ronald Ditsch
218-779-6758

Polk County

George Stage
218-284-1083

What can you get for \$1?



600 hours of electric drill use

Electricity helps power your project for just pennies. Did you know you can use an electric drill for about 600 hours with just \$1 worth of kilowatts? Imagine all the shelves you can hang, the furniture you can fix and the sheds you can build. That's cost-effective home improvement!

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Next board meeting

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

Officers and Directors

President Mark Hatton
Vice President Michael Beaudry
Secretary-Treasurer Wayne Malm
Directors ... Paul Aakre, Steve Goodwin, Chris Mortenson,
Blake Owens, C.J. Peterson and Tom Woinarowicz
CEO Mike Schmidt
Editors Jeff Rustad, Megan Dagoberg

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Air-Source Heat Pumps

YOUR HOME'S LUCKY CHARM

Spring means two things: the celebration of St. Patrick's Day and the knowledge that hot afternoons are just weeks away. Don't leave the success of your cooling system to the luck of your **four-leaf clover** – get your warmth and your chill in one convenient **pot o' gold** with a super-efficient air-source heat pump (ASHP).

An ASHP delivers electric climate control for most of the year, with the option of a backup fuel source for your cooperative's demand response program – an opportunity that cuts your costs and keeps the electric grid strong. Whether your goal is **saving green** or **going green**, the benefits of an ASHP are hard to ignore!



If you have plans to build a new home or replace your aging furnace or AC unit, an air-source heat pump may be the perfect heating/cooling solution for you. Contact the energy pros at PKM Electric Cooperative to learn how you can find the right fit and save the most money.



Convenience

An ASHP uses just one system year-round to both heat and cool your home, so there's no need for an AC unit. The system removes and expels hot air from your house in the summer, but offers the versatility of the reverse process to heat your home in the winter.



Easy installation, low maintenance

You can find an ASHP to fit nearly any size of home, and your contractor will have no problem with the easy installation. The electric power source makes maintenance a breeze, and you don't have to worry as often about keeping a fuel tank full.



Reliable comfort

ASHPs deliver the same level of comfort as other heating and cooling technologies with less of a carbon footprint. Models are becoming more powerful every year, offering fully electric heat through well-below-zero temperatures.



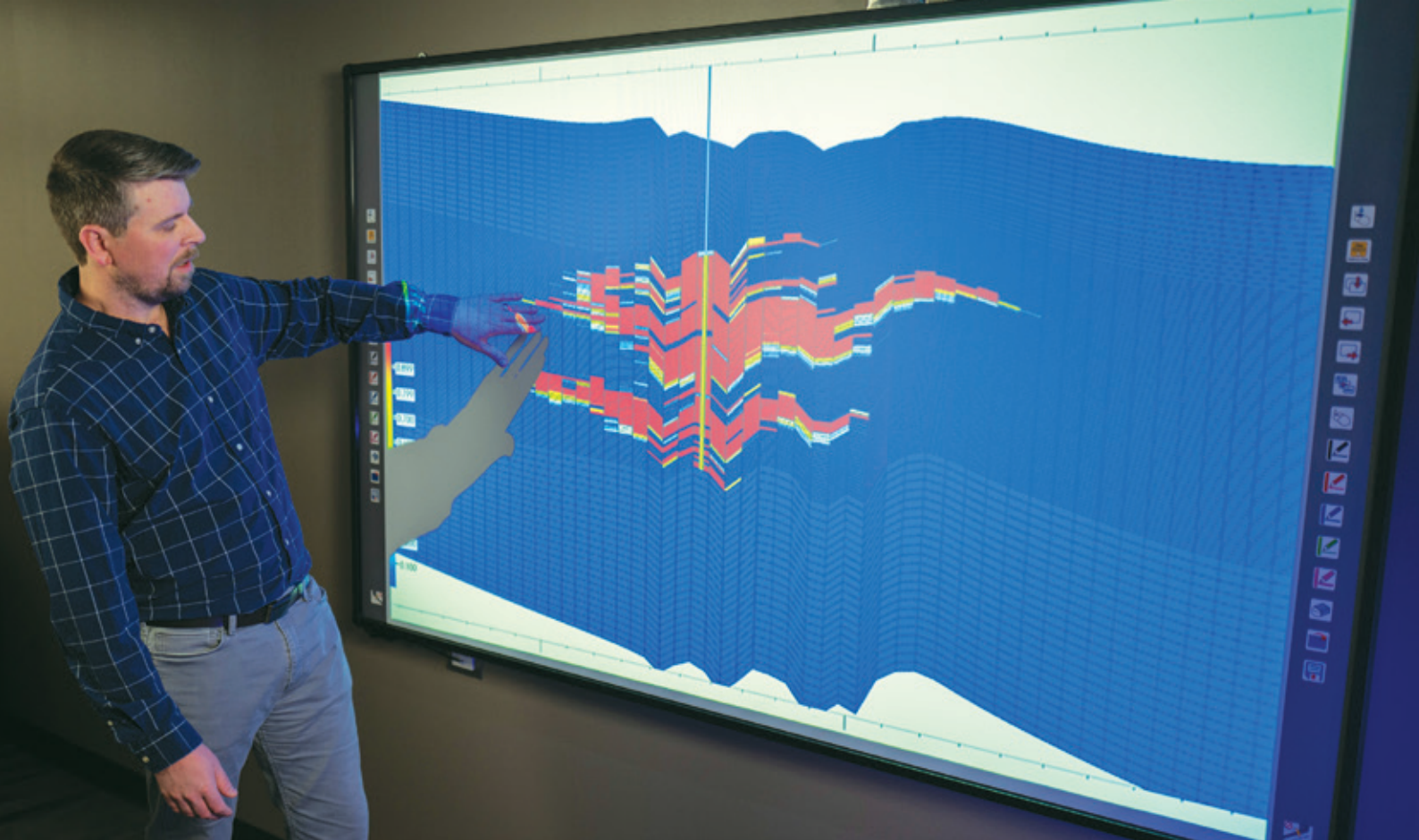
Efficiency

The unit moves both cooled and heated air throughout the home instead of generating it. This makes ASHPs much more efficient and cost-effective than fuel-only heat technology, delivering up to three times more energy than the electricity they use.



Savings

PKM Electric Cooperative offers a rebate of up to \$500 per ton for the installation of a new ASHP on the off-peak program, which gives you the benefit of a highly reduced electric rate. Plus, you'll enjoy sustained savings through the energy efficiency you gain.



Project Tundra project manager Dan Laudal evaluates a diagram highlighting an injection output from one of the project's proposed injection and storage zones.



Finding injection perfection

LATEST PROJECT TUNDRA SIMULATIONS
SHOW PROMISING PROPERTIES
FOR CO2 INJECTION AND STORAGE

Da Laudal has nonM ikula e skp tich p o plB uti t'sn ott h e r fa lt.

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Butt hg e logict e tinger e ultst hy h a e re e vd l a e ya m k ingi th a dt ob e ynich .

W e v e ookd a a ho the a ndg one 'Thisi sa mostt oog oodt ob e ru e M ikula sa dY ouh a e ot k a t p b a ka ds x , wh a p uts om uchd a a ntot he m od- e st- hy c a 'tg e m uchm ore obustt ha wh a th y a W e vd one e ythingT he la ts t p i sw j e ustn d t od oi t'.

“You have to take a step back and say, we have put so much data into these models – they can’t get much more robust than what they are. We’ve done everything. The last step is we just need to do it.”

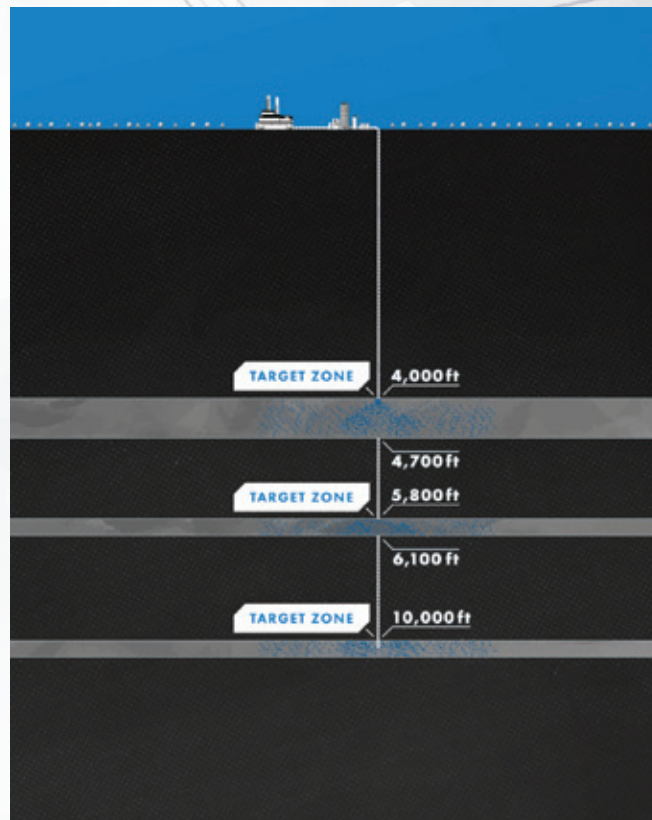
– Shannon Mikula, project legal counsel



Then, Shannon Mikula, project legal counsel, said that the team has described the relationship of the subsurface and the environment at the Young Station facility. So, finally, the team will be able to use the physical surveys and the geologic models to help the regulatory and the Young Station to use the up-to-date geological and geophysical data (CO₂) injection, but digital simulations the project has already initiated have been possible just now with the geological data. With a couple of weeks, the geological and the simulations predict how CO₂ captured from the Young Station would be able to be injected into the geological formations within the subsurface around the oil-field plant.

Late in 2020, a crew ran a physical field test to see if the environment would be able to accept the injection of CO₂ into the 10-foot section of porous rock. The test was a success, and the formations accepted fluid at very high pressure that didn't cause the rock to break or the signs of other CO₂ injection.

Using the data from the injection tests, reservoir engineers at the Energy &



Safe CO₂ injection and storage capabilities are being evaluated in several geologic zones, all thousands of feet into the subsurface below the Milton R. Young Station.

Environmental Research Center (EERC) ran digital simulations of how CO₂ injections in the 10-foot section would be able to be much larger and more successful.

With a few more promising results, Mikula said.

Energy & Environmental Research Center geologist Wes Peck displays two North Dakota rock types that will play key roles in accepting CO₂ and locking it in place.

Shedding light on the volume which the formation could accept CO₂ was beyond what was needed to store half a million metric tons of CO₂ per day with the Pore Volume Reduction (PVR) technique. In fact, the new approach would be a lot better. This is a tremendous step and means we don't have to reconfigure everything."

The study will optimize the project and the simulation injects CO₂ at a certain rate over a certain period of time and then we figure out what happens. From there, we

can make what is the most efficient and safely get the most CO₂ into the smallest footprint we can."

EERC's research will continue for several simulations to find efficiencies in the injection design. The Wes Peck EERC geologist's data is the first of its kind, determining the best way to fit fans into a large football stadium.

"For the first test, we opened all the stadium doors and let the fans in. At the time, we could not have that many people – or that much CO₂ – so we had to open the doors. And we waited for a few days to see if we could get everybody – all the CO₂ – in the stadium. It took a few days, but we were trying to do it."

Over the past few years, Peck has been working on a project to design a new type of CO₂ storage. The project is a joint effort between EERC and the University of North Dakota. The project is a joint effort between EERC and the University of North Dakota. The project is a joint effort between EERC and the University of North Dakota.

Mikula's study is a continuation of the EERC's previous work on CO₂ storage. The project is a joint effort between EERC and the University of North Dakota. The project is a joint effort between EERC and the University of North Dakota.

Wes Peck's research is a continuation of the EERC's previous work on CO₂ storage. The project is a joint effort between EERC and the University of North Dakota. The project is a joint effort between EERC and the University of North Dakota.

to pop a bottle of champagne and celebrate.”

Howe et al. won't be immediately low down and revel in the latest findings. Mikuladze and Singh loathe the 'big and bold' application for Class VI storage. Once submitted, the application will face a lengthy period. Minnesota's operators hope to have a decision by the end of 2021. In the meantime, the Tundra team will be planning with investors who are not quite ready to commit \$450 million to the project.

The team anticipates getting the order of business and the ground on the Tundra. However, the deployment of technology and engineering is progressing with Minnesota's

EERC's hopes are optimistic – are finally letting optimism overtake some of the earlier skepticism.

Some fit.

We're doing our work, but the kings of the situation with critical issues of order, everyone is playing it a little bit cautious. If it turns out to be good, it's a good test, but the operational work isn't losing anything," he said.

If the good things come out of this, we're not the Minnesota's. It's a good thing that this piece of the puzzle is in place, we thought it would."

Minnesota Power Cooperative / By Kaylee Cusack / Photography Michael Hoeft



Small water injection tests were performed this winter at a test well site south of Center, N.D. The results showed the local formations would safely accept CO₂ at the rate and volume needed for Project Tundra. (Submitted photo)

Power over the market

ENERGY MARKETERS COMBINE RELIABLE RESOURCES AND DEMAND RESPONSE TO AVOID A COLD-WEATHER CRISIS



In mid-February, millions of Texans were learning how to get through brutal winter temperatures with no electricity, while many more were researching how to pay for suddenly enormous power bills.

During that same subzero-weather event, a group of energy marketers at Minnkota (PKM's wholesale power provider) was getting a lesson on how to protect the cooperative's members from facing similar ice-cold consequences. And they skillfully passed the test.

"We've seen some extreme temperatures locally, and we know how that plays into what we do day-to-day," said energy marketer Mark Fulbright, who has been with Minnkota less than two years. "But during this event we had the opportunity to see extreme temperatures spread across the country, and how that can add a new dimension to how we handle operations here."

The "we" that Fulbright refers to is a trio of fairly new additions to Minnkota's power supply and resource planning department. Along with Fulbright, energy marketers Amber Langemo and Isaac Hoffart were all hired within the past two years, all three missing the last polar vortex event in January 2019. They join experienced energy marketer Dan Trebil, an 8-year veteran of powering through climate anomalies.

"They handled a very stressful situation very well," said Todd Sailer, senior manager of power supply and resource planning. "Trying to incorporate our demand response, managing the wind forecasts and understanding how the markets work –

this was one of those experiences that will end up being very valuable for them in the future."

What happened?

The nearly two-week February cold snap that essentially crippled the Texas power grid started up north. From approximately Feb. 8-14, Minnkota's service area experienced some of its coldest temperatures of the stretch. As the polar vortex dropped south, both regional demand and weather-related generation issues began to rise.

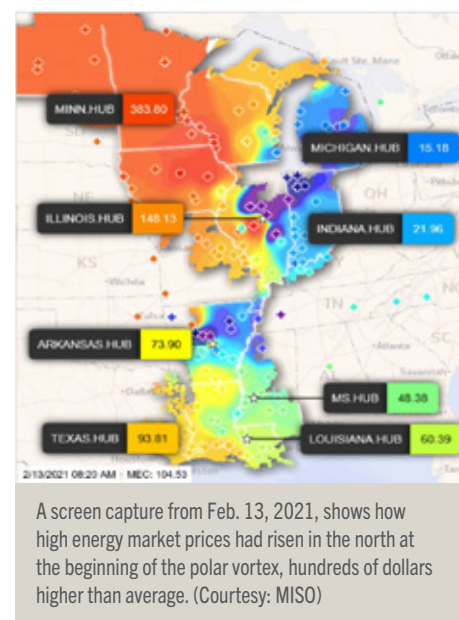
Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) – the organization that manages the transmission grid and energy markets of a 15-state region that includes Minnkota's territory – asked its providers to enter conservative operations Feb. 14-20 and declared a Maximum Generation Event on Feb. 16. Over those days, the combination of expanded regional need and less generation availability (from frozen plants, natural gas pipeline constraints and less production from wind farms across the midsection of the country) made the cost of buying energy from the grid skyrocket.

"We saw prices over \$100 all hours of the day starting on Feb. 15, and it lasted four to five days," Sailer recalled. "We might see it that high for a few hours but, typically, in the last couple of years, it's been averaging less than \$20 per megawatt-hour. So when you're seeing prices of \$200, \$400, sometimes up to \$900, it completely changes what you're trying to manage."

Minnkota had to protect itself from

relying on the volatile market. Although the coal-based Young Station continued to provide electricity reliably throughout the event, wind power generation dropped due to low winds and temperatures. Minnkota's healthy demand response program – through which members volunteer to have certain electric loads like dual-fuel heating and water heaters controlled for a reduced rate – helped Sailer's energy marketers decrease the demand on the grid.

"Because we're scheduling our generation resources into the market, we're making sure we're scheduling those resources in the right market. If the power plant's going to be available or the wind's going to be available, we're making sure to schedule that properly," Sailer explained. "With that, you identify where your exposure is in the market, or maybe identify



some opportunities in the market related to our demand response program. We're making sure we're doing something that is beneficial to our members and maximizing the value of those resources."

Ultimately, Minnkota came out of the cold snap with few weather-related service interruptions to its members. There were no rolling blackouts as briefly seen in neighboring grid systems, and no days-long outages as experienced in the south. Minnkota used 84 hours of dual-fuel heat control, which helped avoid high energy market costs. The electricity provided by

the Young Station covered the remaining demand and added needed power into the national grid.

“Our value of reliability shined through in a moment where others were facing crisis,” said plant engineering and environmental manager Tim Hagerott, adding that the Young Station is specifically designed to operate in North Dakota’s cold-weather climate. “The majority of our equipment is housed indoors in heated buildings. We also have several systems that utilize heat trace that is covered by insulation to prevent piping and equipment from freezing.”

A different situation

In Texas’ unique energy landscape, the situation was starkly different. Many generation resource technologies, including natural gas pipelines, coal plants and wind turbines, could not perform in the once-in-a-century low temperatures. For most of the country, this would mean importing energy from a neighboring grid system operator (such as MISO). However, the Electricity Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) is independent of those grid interconnections.

“They’re somewhat of an island when they start having problems on their system, because they’re limited in bringing in other resources from other regions,” Sailer said. “It was obviously a very extreme weather event for them, so some of their units just weren’t prepared for that cold. It wasn’t just one resource – they were nearly all

impacted, which resulted in Texas being isolated.”

Additionally, hundreds of Texas power consumers who were enrolled in programs that connect them directly to wholesale power rates were burned by that week’s market volatility, receiving bills that were thousands of dollars higher than normal. Minnkota and its member cooperatives protect their member-consumers from this price fluctuation by using their own generation resources to limit market exposure.

When the polar vortex finally waned in late February, Minnkota’s energy marketers were able to return to some normalcy – regular work hours, stable market prices and infrequent demand response needs. The adrenaline may have faded, but the newcomer knowledge will stick around for the next time it’s their job to help keep power reliable and affordable.

“This is a unique job in the sense that it seems like we learn something new every day,” Fulbright said, surrounded by his fellow marketers. “And that week was tenfold.”

“It was exciting, because we hadn’t seen anything like that before,” Langemo added. “You can talk about these things in theory, but when you’re actually doing them, it’s a lot different. It was a great way to learn, when you have three other people to bounce ideas off of. That’s one thing with our group – we do function well as a team.”

By Kaylee Cusack, Minnkota Power Cooperative



Properly controlled burns can have many benefits for agricultural land. However, if these burns are not managed safely, they can cause property damage, power outages, injury and even death. Safe Electricity urges you to make safety a priority and shares tips on special considerations to be taken around power lines.

First, make yourself aware of laws and regulations. Only those who are experienced with fire and burn paths should conduct one. Alert those who potentially may be affected by the burn – including neighbors, the local fire department and law enforcement. Depending on local regulations, you may also need to obtain a burn permit.

Take special note of power poles and lines. Burning a power pole could cause a widespread power outage and be costly for the individual responsible for the fire.

Cut down grass and weeds, and water the area near the poles as to not encourage fires to encroach. Be careful to keep water streams out of power lines.

If a power pole catches on fire, call the fire department and alert PKM Electric Cooperative to handle the possible electrical dangers. Even if you think you can put out the fire yourself, alert the utility to the fact that it caught fire. The creosote, a preservative, on the inside could still be burning the pole from the inside out. In addition, if the pole catches on fire, it could create shock or electrocution hazards to those who may be nearby or spark fires in unintended directions from downed lines.

Also, keep in mind environmental factors such as temperature, humidity, and wind direction and speed. The wind speed in the area should be low and in a steady direction as to not let the fire get out of control. As environmental factors are subject to change, check forecasts and actual conditions before you begin the burn.

– Source: safeelectricity.org

Nominating committee appointed

At its March meeting, the board of directors of PKM appointed a nominating committee to nominate candidates for the board of directors, to be voted on by the members at the annual meeting on July 13, 2021. The nominating committee will meet in May or June. Please watch for the date in the next issue of the PKM News and in your local newspapers. Members who may have an interest in being a candidate for the board of directors should inform the committee of their interest.

The bylaws of the cooperative provide for an additional method to become a candidate for the board of directors. If it is felt a potential candidate was not given due consideration by the committee, or did not contact the committee prior to its meeting, a member can become a candidate by having 15 or more members place his/her name in nomination by petition and delivering same to the cooperative 20 days prior to the annual meeting.

Members appointed to the committee are:

Bob Wimpfheimer, *Warren*
Matt Linsley, *Euclid*
Rodney Larson, *Euclid*
Jeff Mortenson, *Kennedy*
Gary Jensen, *Drayton*

Garrit Winge, *Kennedy*
Jeff Chwialkowski, *Argyle*
Chris Urbaniak, *Argyle*
Troy Osowski, *Argyle*

Board meeting **highlights** *January and February*

A special meeting of the board was held Monday, Jan. 25, 2021.

Mark Hatton, president who presided, asked for roll call. Upon calling the roll, the president reported that all directors were present. Director Owens participated via phone conference.

Director Woinarowicz provided an update to the directors regarding business at Minnkota Power Cooperative with CEO Mike Schmidt. Director Aakre, the CEO and Director Woinarowicz will be present for the upcoming joint meeting at Minnkota with Square Butte on Feb. 4 and 5.

Director Aakre commented that the Square Butte board of directors had not held a meeting since Dec. 10, 2020. He reported that the past year nine out of the 11 months were under budget except for January and February. Young 1 had 85% compacity and Young 2 reported 80% compacity in 2020.

Directors Woinarowicz and Aakre had recently attended the NRECA Director Training BLC 964 online. The meeting was about distributed energy resources. A few things they brought back to the board were to look at implementing having a policy on electric vehicles and to watch the cost of service about every five years. Overall, both were pleased with the information they received from the meeting.

Line superintendent Joe Marcotte presented the monthly safety and operations report, indicating no accidents and no lost time. With the nice weather the crews had been busy with clearing right of ways and pole replacements. Marcotte also expressed how cable prices are on the rise. He informed the board that he had made the decision to order more cable now before the price of copper and materials keeps going up.

Manager of member services Jeff Rustad shared activities within his department. He finished his class with Minnkota to maintain his electrical license. Rustad shared details about demoing phones from FirstNet.

The CFO opened her administrative report with a reflection of 2020, noting a strong financial finish for the year. She informed the directors on a project they are working on with NISC to convert PKM's large power bills from manual calculation to auto billing with its regular bill run. The final 219 Work Order Inventory for 2020 is being prepared with a January closing date. Preparations will also begin for the scheduled Cost of Service Study and Financial Forecast as the year-end closing completes.

The CFO continued with the presentation of the Operating and Financial report for the cooperative. Historical data for margins for a 10-year PTD and YTD comparison were provided and discussed. Other reported numbers for December 2020 compared to 2019 included new services to date (57 compared to 26 in 2019). Current equity ratio remains strong.

The CEO referenced his written report outlining recent meetings. Upon presentation of the reports from the management staff and CEO, questions and comments from the board of directors concerning their reports were addressed.

The CEO stated it would be necessary for the board to select voting delegates to the annual meetings of Minnkota Power Cooperative and Square Butte Electric Cooperative.

The CEO stated, according to the bylaws, the board of directors needs a separate resolution for the quarterly review of the financials. Having had the December financial review, a motion was made that the board of directors receive the fourth quarter financials.

The president stated it is necessary for the board to review

and determine the disposition of the nonoperating margin annually.

At this time, Minnkota Power Cooperative attorney Andrew Sorbo presented phase 1 of the PKM bylaw revisions. Sorbo answered questions from the directors. They agreed to continue the process to update the PKM bylaws. After lunch there was a brief presentation from Minnkota Power Cooperative vice president of Energy Supply and COO Lowell Stave and economic development administrator Matt Marshall.

The CFO presented changes for the RUS Construction Fund Signature Certification, Policy Bulletin No. 4-2.3. After answering all the directors' questions, they decided to work with Andrew Sorbo and present again in February.

The CFO with Joe Marcotte presented changes for the Policy Bulletin 7-1.5: Disposition of idle services. They expressed their concern about meeting RUS guidelines, maintenance of the lines and having to change out all existing material if someone wants to put the service back in. After discussion and answering any questions, the directors had decided to revisit it at another time.

The CEO concluded the meeting with miscellaneous information including information on the Angus compressor project, MPC rate change, adjustments to nonoperating and nominating committee.

Upon motion duly made by Director Goodwin, seconded

by Director Beaudry and unanimously carried, an executive session was called. The president returned the meeting to regular order concluding the executive session at 3:20 p.m.

A special meeting of the board was held Friday, Feb. 26, 2021.

Mark Hatton, president who presided, asked for roll call. Upon calling the roll, the secretary reported that all directors were present.

Director Woinarowicz and Director Aakre shared an update with the directors regarding business at Minnkota Power and Square Butte Cooperatives. Most recently, a joint meeting was held where they had a presentation from Charles River Associates on different scenarios of plans for the next 20 years.

Line superintendent Joe Marcotte presented the monthly safety and operations report, indicating no accidents and no lost time. The crews continue to focus on inventory, changing poles and doing some mowing. Reported connected members for the end of January were 3,969, representing a net gain of 52 from the same period last year.

The manager of member services shared activities within his department. He shared with the board that PKM had its first application for solar.

The CFO opened her administrative report with an update

Problems paying your electric bill?

Energy assistance may be available!

If you are receiving a low income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, these agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.



Northwest Community Action

PO Box 67

Badger, MN 56714-0067

(218) 528-3258 or 800-568-5329

northwestcap.org

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.

1407 Erskine Street

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(218) 281-9080

Toll Free (866) 264-3729

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1-888-224-9043 (Minnesota office)
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rep.deb.kiel@house.mn

to the directors with her call with Federated. The final 219 for 2020 was closed in January.

The CFO continued with the presentation of the Operating and Financial report for the cooperative. Historical data for margins for a 10-year PTD and YTD comparison were provided and discussed. Expenses were down 16% and PKM had very little outage time.

The CEO referenced his submitted written report. He also shared about the rebuild of the Tabor substation this summer and new electronic breakers being put in.

Upon presentation of the reports from the management staff and CEO, questions and comments from the board of directors concerning their reports were addressed.

The president stated it would be necessary for the board to select voting delegates to the 2021 NRECA Director Election in Minnesota. After discussion, it was decided that a director had to be present to vote. None of the directors planned to attend; therefore, there was no need to select a voting delegate.

The president informed the directors it is necessary to review the delegate to represent PKM Electric Cooperative, Inc., as a CRC voting delegate for 2021. After discussion, it was decided to leave the delegates the same as the year prior.

The nomination of the PKM Electric Cooperative, Inc., directors to serve on the Minnkota Power Cooperative and Square Butte Electrical Cooperative board of directors respectively were the next items of discussion.

The CEO presented the annual OSHA Form 300A to the directors. He was very pleased with the report's results.

The CEO presented the listing of Accounts Receivable – Electric to be written off with a total of \$14,159.23. The CEO reminded the board that this does not end the collection process and that these accounts are turned over to a collection agency. The recovery process has been successful over the years.

The discussion turned to the desirability of making a general retirement. The financial policy sets a goal of a 25-year rotation. Due to the weather, maintaining a steady margin is challenging. The capital credit pay-out method was discussed.

Following discussion, upon motion duly made by Director Aakre and seconded by Director Goodwin, a resolution was offered to retire a portion of 1996 member capital totaling \$350,000.00.

Policy Bulletin 4-2.3: Bank Accounts was presented for

discussion. The policy establishes terms for the cooperative bank accounts. The current policy bulletin requires countersignatures by the president, vice president or secretary/treasurer. The CFO proposed an office procedure change. It was recommended to remove all checks drawn on the RUS Loan Fund Account and REDLG must be countersigned only by the president, vice president, or secretary/treasurer, except for, and add number four, the CFO is authorized to perform wire transfers between the RUS Loan Fund account and the General Funds account.

There was a brief presentation from Todd Sailer, Minnkota's senior manager of Energy Supply, on February's Maximum Generation event. The meeting concluded with miscellaneous informational items discussed, including Carr's and MPC business planning.



Energy Assistance **PROGRAM** benefit increased

The Minnesota Department of Commerce announced that the Energy Assistance Program has increased the maximum annual crisis benefit for qualifying households **from \$600 to \$1,200**, following the February arctic blast.

Your household would be eligible to receive the additional \$600 benefit if you meet the following criteria:

- You have a past due electric/natural gas/propane/fuel oil bill.
- Received a disconnection notice from your electric or natural gas vendor.
- Are at or below 20% in your propane or fuel oil tank and need a delivery.
- Are over 60 years of age and have a current/past due electric/natural gas/propane/fuel oil bill.

Please contact their office at **1-800-568-5329** or email **eap@nwcaa.org** and visit with our Energy Assistance Department regarding your need or call Tri-Valley at 1-866-264-3729.



Plan ahead for new services

Attention members who are planning for new service(s) construction and/or improvements:

Please contact Joe Marcotte, PKM line superintendent, (c. 218-686-9870) at your earliest convenience for scheduling to avoid delays. Construction materials are increasingly difficult to obtain or have longer-than-normal delivery times. In addition, line crews already have a number of projects planned and the schedule gets especially tight later in the summer. As much as practical, the service upgrades will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Thanks for your cooperation with our request.

Are you wasting your money on

Dirt?

Dirty air filters cause a heating and cooling system to work harder and break down faster.

That's because unfiltered dust and grime works into parts, creating friction that causes unnecessary wear and eventually failure.

How much does a dirty air filter cost you?

- Reduced air flow in the home, leading to up to 15% higher operating costs
- Leads to costly duct cleaning or replacement
- Lowers system efficiency

To avoid these expenses, change filters monthly when your heating and cooling system's in regular use.

Discuss cleaning the unit and ductwork with your heating and cooling service professional.

Source: High Performance HVAC,
U.S. Department of Energy

Energy Efficiency Incentives

Electric Heating Rebates

Must be on off-peak

Dual-fuel electric heating (including electric plenum heaters)

Easily convert your existing fossil fuel furnace into a dual-fuel heating system. You are able to use the most efficient, cost-effective heating source – fossil fuel or electricity – at any time.

Rebate of \$50 per kilowatt (kW)

Electric storage heating (including Steffes storage/slab storage)

Draws electricity during off-peak hours when electric demand is low. Heat is stored to provide comfort 24 hours a day.

Rebate of \$80 per kW

Air-source heat pumps (including mini-split ductless option)

Works just like a central air conditioner in the summer. In the fall and winter, they provide super-efficient supplemental heat.

Less than 17 SEER: Rebate of \$300 per ton
17 SEER or greater: Rebate of up to \$500 per ton

Geothermal heat pumps

Provides the highest efficiency for space heating and cooling available today. The system transfers heat to and from the earth using only small amounts of electricity.

Closed loop: Rebate of \$400 per ton
Open loop: Rebate of \$200 per ton

Electric underfloor boiler

A popular off-peak option because the system transfers consistently across the floor to reach people and objects, providing both comfort and efficiency. Applications include electric boiler with hydronic tubing.

Rebate of \$80 per kW

Other electric heating systems

Options include electric baseboards, cove heaters, electric floor cable, mats and more.

Rebate of \$50 per kW

Electric Water Heater Rebates

Must be on off-peak

100 gallon or greater

\$500 rebate

56-99 gallon

\$400 rebate

55 gallon or less

\$200 rebate

Bonus rebates:

Add \$250
 if converting from
 natural gas or
 propane.

FREE 50- or 85-
 gallon Marathon water
 heater for new construction.



Electric Vehicle Charger Rebates

240V Level 2 Charger

Must be on off-peak

Electric vehicle or hybrid

\$50 per kW

Commercial – Forklifts, Zambonis, etc.

\$50 per kW



Residential
Charger

Commercial
Charger

**All equipment must be new and installed
 on PKM Electric Cooperative's system.**

Equipment must be installed on PKM's off-peak program.

Contact our Energy Services Department for more details!

218-745-4711