

# PKM NEWS

Electric Cooperative

MARCH-APRIL 2022 / PKMCOOP.COM

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## Digging into an outdoor project?

Dial 811 or visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com) first to protect underground utility lines.

April is National #SafeDiggingMonth



**Learn more  
on pages 3-5**



# CFO Report

**KAREN OLSON**  
CFO  
PKM Electric Co-op

With the never-ending winter storms we have experienced, it is hard to believe that it is May and not the start of winter. I have heard people referencing “The Long Winter of 1880-1881,” where winter started with a mid-October 1880 blizzard and continued with a series of endless blizzards that eventually cut some residents off from much needed supplies until May of 1881. Although it may feel like that is how this past winter has been, I think we would all wholeheartedly agree that thankfully we have come a long way since then. It is a winter like this that makes us grateful for and appreciate the everyday comforts provided to us from our rural electric cooperatives. Along with the strong winter storms that have plagued our area over recent weeks, we are now dealing with flooding in and around our service area. We are hopeful some relief is on the way and that brighter, warmer days are on the horizon. I hope that you and your families have been spared from any serious harm or damage to your property. Stay safe out there!

Along with the upcoming annual meeting of your electric cooperative comes the distribution of the capital credit retirement. Your board of directors approves the allocation of capital credits and approves the amount to be paid out annually. Prior to the capital credit allocation process, the accumulated capital credits (or margins) are used as working capital to maintain and improve the electric system, keep the cooperative financially sound and allow reserves for emergencies such as large storms that may require replacement of many poles and power lines like some of our neighboring cooperatives are currently dealing with. PKM Electric is a nonprofit cooperative – that simply means we operate at cost with any excess revenues (called margins) returned to the members in the form of capital credits.

When a PKM member moves off the system, they retain any capital credit allocation remaining on their account. They will continue to receive their annual payment as designated by the board of directors, but they need to keep the cooperative informed of their current address to ensure proper delivery of any remaining payments. Also, when a member dies, the capital credits can continue to be paid out to the spouse or to an estate.

The board of directors approved a capital credit payment of \$355,991.41 for 2022, which represents the balances for 1996-1997. We are currently working through the process of distributing this year’s capital credit payout, which is scheduled to be applied as a credit to your July bill.

We are still dealing with the supply chain issues and the record inflation that started two years ago with the pandemic. Lead times for some of our inventory and capital purchases are now as much as 1-2 years. This has been incredibly challenging over the past two years as we prepare our annual budgets and work plans. As a member, you can rest assured that the entire PKM team – from the management to the office staff and line crew to the board of directors that you elect – is committed to, and takes pride in, delivering safe, reliable service to the members of your electric cooperative.

We look forward to seeing you at

the upcoming annual meeting in July, which will once again be held at the Sky-Vu Drive In in Warren. If you have never attended before, I encourage you to join us and learn more about your cooperative and enjoy a very casual, fun-filled family-friendly evening.

As the floodwaters recede, please report any damage you may notice to poles, transformers, etc. Please be extra cautious on the roadways and in the field with the increased activity of large farm equipment as the spring planting season gets underway.



\$1

## Learned Norwegian for your heritage trip?

It’s a powerful experience, powered by just \$1 of tablet energy.



### March/April 2022 (Vol. 76, No. 2)

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#### Office hours

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday  
218-745-4711 or 800-552-7366

#### Electrical after-hours emergencies

800-552-7366  
e-mail: [info@pkmcoop.com](mailto:info@pkmcoop.com)  
website: [www.pkmcoop.com](http://www.pkmcoop.com)

#### Next board meeting

Board meeting to be held the last Tuesday of the month.

#### 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.*

# April is National Safe Digging Month

If you are planning an outdoor project, don't forget to **CALL BEFORE YOU DIG.**



That's right. Digging safety is so vitally important that there is an entire month dedicated to it. Your yard may be hiding underground utility pipes, cables and wires, so if you're planning a spring project that involves a shovel or excavator, it's critical to call 8-1-1 before you start. A quick call can keep your project on schedule, your family safe and your neighbors connected to the utilities they need.

## Calling is critical

Installing a mailbox?  
**CALL 8-1-1.**



Planting a garden?  
**CALL 8-1-1.**



Building a deck?  
**CALL 8-1-1.**



## The process is easy

### 1 NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or submit a request online two to three days before you begin. The utilities affected by your digging will be notified of your project.



### 2 WAIT

It may take two to three days for utilities to send a locator to mark any underground lines.



### 3 CONFIRM

Compare the marks on your yard to the list of utilities contacted by 8-1-1. Confirm that all entities have responded to the request.



### 4 RESPECT

Protect and follow the utility markers – the flags and/or paint will remain important guides throughout your project.



### 5 DIG CAREFULLY

Be sure to avoid digging within two feet of the markers on all sides. If you can't, you'll need to consider moving your project.



Scan the code with your phone to submit a request online, or visit [call811.com](http://call811.com).



# EXCAVATOR QUICK GUIDE

## Excavator Responsibilities - Know the Basics!

### Plan for Your Excavation

You are required to use white markings to define the entire area where excavation will occur, unless it can be shown it is not practical. Include a safety buffer when marking the area.

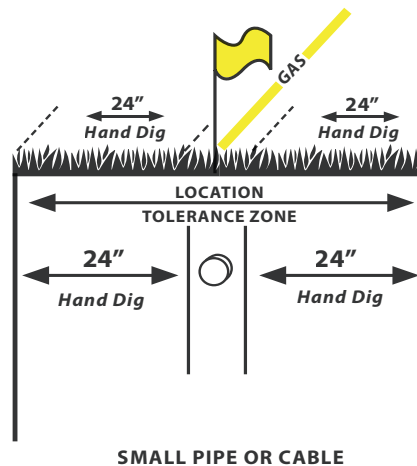
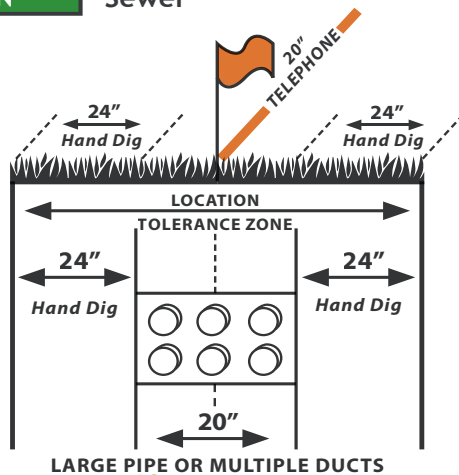
### Notify GSOC

All Minnesota excavators, including homeowners and farmers, are responsible for notifying GSOC of their proposed excavations so facility operators with underground facilities near the excavation site can be informed of pending excavation. Excavators are required to notify GSOC 48 hours in advance, excluding weekends and holidays, before beginning excavation.

### The color of paint or flags identifies the type of underground facility

WHITE	Area of Proposed Excavation
PINK	Temporary Survey Markings
RED	Electric
YELLOW	Gas, Oil, Steam, Propane
ORANGE	Communication, CATV, Fiber
BLUE	Water
PURPLE	Reclaimed Water, Irrigation
GREEN	Sewer

- ▶ ALWAYS USE THE CORRECT WORK TYPE ON YOUR TICKET
- ▶ CHECK FOR ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION ON YOUR TICKET
- ▶ ALWAYS CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR TICKET BEFORE YOU EXCAVATE
- ▶ HAND DIG WITHIN THE TOLERANCE ZONE



Know what's below.  
811 before you dig.

V2017

# EXCAVATOR QUICK GUIDE

## File Locate Requests by Phone

<i>Emergency</i> _____	866-640-3637
<i>Twin Cities Metro</i> _____	651-454-0002
<i>Greater MN Area</i> _____	800-252-1166
<i>Nationally</i> _____	811

## File Locate Requests Online

[www.gsocsubmit.org](http://www.gsocsubmit.org)

## Search for Tickets Online

[www.gsocsearch.org](http://www.gsocsearch.org)

## Visit our Website

[www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org)

## Contact Customer Support

By phone: 651-681-7326

By email: [customersupport@gopherstateonecall.org](mailto:customersupport@gopherstateonecall.org)

## Private Facilities

Some underground lines in your work area may not be utility owned. These are considered private facilities and will NOT be marked by public utility companies. Inspect your job site prior to entering a ticket for clues as to where private facilities may be buried. Investigate who may have installed them and determine if any records or maps exist. Suggest that the property owner hire a private utility locator. A list of private locators can be found at -

<http://gopherstateonecall.org/private-facility-locators>



[www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org)





# Lineworker Appreciation

In the forties, our lineworkers **raised lines** for farmers and rural towns in the region, **blurring the line** between the world that was and the world that could be. Now, with an energy future **on the line**, their work is as critical as ever. We're not **feeding you a line**, because here's the **bottom line**: These lineworkers will push through the harshest conditions to **cross the finish line** with reliable, affordable, responsible electricity for your family. **They put it all on the line – for you.**

**#ThankALineworker**

# VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

## A responsible approach to safe, reliable power

The formula for making your electricity reliable includes more than just strong power poles and cutting-edge technology. Trees and other greenery near our energy infrastructure also play a large role – and your co-op, your neighbors and YOU must all work together to keep that vegetation from damaging power lines and cutting off electricity flow.

### It's called VEGETATION MANAGEMENT.

Vegetation management creates, promotes and conserves sustainable plant communities while discouraging plants that pose safety and security concerns. PKM monitors and maintains growth around our power lines to meet regulatory and environmental compliance requirements.

We use vegetation management within and near our line's RIGHT OF WAY – or the land under and immediately left and right of the power line. The right of way is a corridor in which no woody vegetation (like trees or shrubs) is allowed to ensure it doesn't grow tall and affect the line. Along the edges of the right of way, we use trained contractors to safely trim any hazardous tree that may grow into the right-of-way corridor. We also occasionally use EPA-approved biodegradable herbicide to clear out brush or noxious weeds that could interfere with service.

PKM Electric Cooperative always puts safety first, and that's why proper vegetation management is so important to us! Improperly maintained trees and plants that grow into the right of way can spark fires, create power outages and stop crews from making important and timely repairs.



## Plant Trees Safely

Before you dig, call 811 to locate buried utility lines.

### LOW TREE ZONE

Avoid planting within 20 ft. of power lines. If planting is unavoidable, only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 ft. or less.

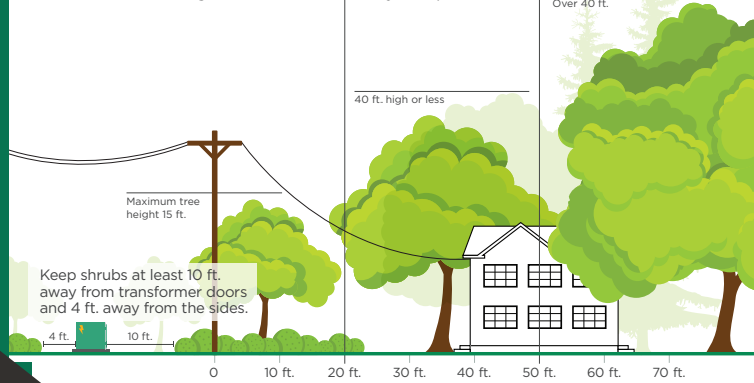
### MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Plant medium trees (under 40 ft. when mature) at least 25 ft. away from power lines.

### LARGE TREE ZONE

Plant large trees (over 40 ft. when mature) at least 50 ft. away from power lines.

Over 40 ft.



If you are a landowner, here are some things you should always remember about vegetation management.

- Never try to trim or remove tree limbs if they are anywhere near power lines.
- If you think a tree is growing too close to a line and could be a hazard, or if a tree is diseased, dying or unstable, call PKM to coordinate a clearing.
- In an emergency, your co-op may need to perform vegetation maintenance without much warning. We will do our best to notify you as soon as possible.
- When planting trees and plants, always look up. Consider how large they will grow, and remember that lines can sag on hot days and sway in the wind. The clearance distances required for power lines vary depending on line voltage – the higher the voltage, the greater the distance.

If you have any questions about vegetation management practices in your area, please give us a call at 218-745-4711!



# When your AC croaks...

# call the heat pump folks!

You've had your trusty air conditioner for years, and it hasn't let you down. **YET.**

When the time comes – and it will – for a more efficient, more versatile, money-saving replacement, PKM Electric Cooperative recommends researching an air-source heat pump (ASHP) or a ductless mini-split heat pump. These modern technologies will not only help you fight the Minnesota summer heat, but they'll also warm you up when the state transitions to its famously cold winters. Show us an air conditioner that can do that!

## TECHNOLOGY BENEFIT BREAKDOWN



AIR CONDITIONER



ASHP



MINI-SPLIT HEAT PUMP

### How it works

Absorbs heat inside and expels it from your home, returning the cooled air into the home

Works like an air conditioner in the summer, but creates the reverse process to warm your home in the winter (throughout the home, using ductwork)

Works like an air conditioner in the summer, but creates the reverse process to warm your home in the winter (zones of the home, no ductwork needed)

### Versatility

Only used during the warm months when home cooling is needed

Offers heating and cooling through every season

Offers heating and cooling through every season, can be installed in any room or space

### Efficiency

Efficiency differs, but some wall-mounted units only provide spot cooling and air can leak through seals

Highly efficient technology, with no fear of air leaks

Highly efficient technology, with no fear of air leaks

### Off-peak program qualified

No

Yes (nearly half of standard electric rate with voluntary enrollment)

Yes (nearly half of standard electric rate with voluntary enrollment)

### Co-op rebate available

No

Yes (up to \$500)

Yes (up to \$500)

**BONUS WINTER BENEFIT:** Electric ASHP heating is much *more efficient* and *cost effective* than fuel heat technology, delivering up to three times more energy than the electricity it uses. Plus, stable electric rates will help you protect yourself from ever-volatile propane and gas prices.

Call the energy experts at PKM to find the heating & cooling system that works best for your home!



# PKM 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 12, 2022. The nominating committee will meet on May 17, 2022. 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:

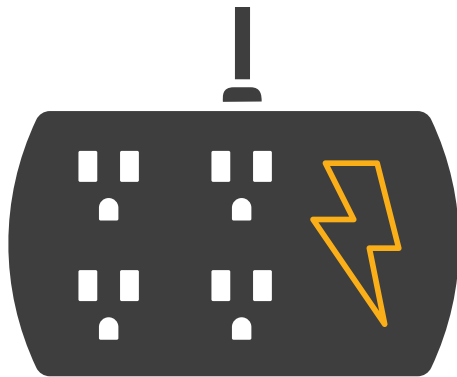
Tom Stinar – Warren	Jason Sobolik – Drayton	James Widner – Strandquist
Wayne Hamrick – Warren	Carey Mortenson – Kennedy	John Kowalski – Stephen
Bob Wimpfheimer – Warren	Gary Jensen – Drayton	Jared Woinarowicz – Stephen



## Notice on service updates/new services

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

If you are looking to add a new service or are adding load and may need to upgrade your existing service, please give Joe Marcotte a call at the PKM office so he can add you to the schedule. Materials such as transformers, yard switches and wire can be extremely hard to get and may be 6 to 12 months out. Call 218-745 4711.



# SURGE PROTECTION

Keep your electronic equipment safe.

A power surge is typically caused by lightning, changes in electrical loads, faulty wiring or damaged power lines.

Install power strips with surge protection to protect sensitive equipment.

- Easy to use (just plug them in)
- Protect electronics plugged into the device
- Must be replaced over time or after a major surge event



### REMEMBER:

Not all power strips offer surge protection. Carefully read the packaging labels when purchasing.

# Board meeting highlights *January and February*

## A regular meeting of the board was held Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022.

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

Director Woinarowicz and Director Aakre gave their reports on Minnkota and Square Butte.

Line Superintendent Joe Marcotte presented the monthly safety and operations report, indicating no accidents and no lost time. Marcotte brought attention to the 2021 Field Report, URD Report, 5-year Outage Report and the 2021 Gopher Bounty Report included in the packet and responded to questions received from the directors. Marcotte told the directors that new truck 70 is fully operational and we received the new Chevrolet pickup.

Manager of Member Services Jeff Rustad shared activities within his department. He shared information on Touchstone Energy®. All the AMI main meters on the Robbin sub are installed. Garden Valley has the fiber in, and PKM has been transitioned over to fiber and our phones will be switched soon. There has been currently 79 hours of off-peak control as of Jan. 16. Rustad proposed a date to the directors for the 2022 annual meeting. They approved the date to be set for Tuesday, July 12, 2022, at the Warren Sky-Vu Drive In.

CFO Karen Olson opened her administrative report with an office update. The office is in full swing of year-end activities. We will be doing another 219-work order inventory closing for our blanket work orders. PKM's audit is scheduled for the third week in March. Employees are busy getting everything the audit team needs. Olson shared that there will be a bad debt write off for the February meeting.

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. Revenue sales were down about 6% but expenses are down 9%. Vehicle costs are up this month. Other reported numbers for December 2021 compared to 2020 included new services to date – 73 compared to 57 in 2020. Current equity ratio remains strong at 56.7%.

The CEO referenced his written report outlining recent meetings. The CEO had a CARRS meeting on Thursday and Friday.

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 contingent

on Minnkota's final resolution for capital credits.

The president stated it is necessary for the board to review and determine the disposition of the non-operating margin annually contingent on Minnkota's final resolution for capital credits.

The CEO concluded the meeting with miscellaneous information for the directors including information on Minnkota's resolutions, Touchstone Energy costs and East Grand Forks possible annexation.

Financials were provided for Carr's Tree Service and an NRECA infrastructure funding opportunities document.

## A special meeting of the board was held Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

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.

Line Superintendent Joe Marcotte presented the

## Electrical Inspectors

### Marshall and Kittson Counties

Ronald Ditsch  
218-779-6758

### Polk County

George Stage  
218-284-1083

## 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](http://northwestcap.org)

### Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.

1407 Erskine Street  
Crookston, MN 56716  
(218) 281-9080  
Toll Free (866) 264-3729

## PKM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE POLITICAL LEADERS

### Federal Legislators

#### President Joe Biden

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)  
202-456-1111

#### Senator Tina Smith

720 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-5641

#### Senator Amy Klobuchar

425 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
[www.klobuchar.senate.gov](http://www.klobuchar.senate.gov)  
202-224-3244  
1-888-224-9043 (Minnesota office)  
Fax: 202-228-2186

#### Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach

1237 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
[www.fischbach.house.gov](http://www.fischbach.house.gov)

202-225-2165

Fax: 202-225-1593

### State of Minnesota Legislators

#### Governor Tim Walz

Capitol Building, Room 130  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
800-657-3717  
[www.mn.gov/governor](http://www.mn.gov/governor)

#### Senator Mark Johnson

95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Building,  
Room 3111  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-5782  
[sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn](mailto:sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn)  
[www.senate.mn/members](http://www.senate.mn/members)

#### Representative John Burkel

309 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

651-296-9635

[rep.john.burkel@house.mn](mailto:rep.john.burkel@house.mn)

#### Representative Deb Kiel

255 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-5091  
800-339-9041  
[rep.deb.kiel@house.mn](mailto:rep.deb.kiel@house.mn)

monthly safety and operations report, indicating no accidents and no lost time. The crews are busy with line patrol, maintenance and, weather permitting, changing poles. We have a few interested in new services and hoping to continue to change overhead to underground.

The manager of member services shared activities within his department. He had a code class he took at the Alerus put on by Dean Hunter. Meters were at 25-30 week lead time and now have changed to 55 weeks.

The CFO opened her administrative report with an office update. The office closed out the final 219 form for the year and finished up submitting all the information for the audit to Brady Martz. She is preparing the Form 7 for review in March.

The CFO continued with the presentation of the Operating and Financial report for the cooperative. She shared that the bad debt is the lowest we have ever seen it. Historical data for margins for a 10-year PTD and YTD comparison were provided and discussed. Revenue was down from budget numbers; we are up about 10% from 2021. Expenses are under budget by just about 15%. This is the third best January in the past 10 years. Outage time is very low.

The CEO referenced his submitted written report outlining the recent meetings. He informed the directors the union is coming up on year three of their contract, which includes wage negotiations only.

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 is 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 2022. After discussion, it was decided to leave the delegates the same as the year prior.

The nomination of the PKM Electric Cooperative directors to serve on the Minnkota Power Cooperative and Square Butte Electrical Cooperative boards 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 \$2,142.88. 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 payout method was discussed. A resolution was offered to retire the 1996 and 1997 member capital totaling \$355,991.41.

The CEO shared miscellaneous information with the directors including appointing a nominating committee for those directors up for reelection; 2021 year-end work comp retention; a resignation letter from a lineman, Matt Bjorgo; and an update on the East Grand Forks annexation.

There was a legislative presentation from Stacey Dahl, Minnkota senior manager of external affairs. The meeting concluded with miscellaneous informational items discussed including Carr's, MPC business planning and CFC economic and market watch.



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

## ATTENTION MEMBERS

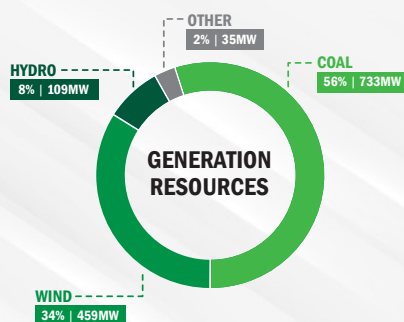
### Meter changeouts in your area



**Allegiant**  
UTILITY SERVICES

Allegiant Utility Services will be changing meters coming up this summer in the Alvarado/Oslo/Warren/Argyle area and Euclid/Crookston area. Please contact PKM Electric Cooperative if you have any questions at 218-745-4711.

## WHERE YOUR POWER COMES FROM



PKM Electric Cooperative provides its membership with reliable, resilient and responsible energy. A strong generation portfolio of coal, wind, hydro and other resources from Minnkota Power Cooperative, PKM Electric's wholesale energy provider, helps meet your 24/7 needs.

# ANATOMY OF A LINEWORKER

It takes brains, brawn and bravery to be a lineworker for a rural electric cooperative – and it also takes a whole lot of equipment. When it comes to building and maintaining our power lines, PKM Electric Cooperative always puts safety first. Our lineworkers sometimes carry more than 50 pounds of protective equipment and gear as they climb a power pole, depending on what is needed for the job.

Even before they think about picking up additional tools, a lineworker will start with these basic accessories to keep them safe and efficient.

## HAND LINE

This is a lineworker's lifeline. Complete with steel clips and a pulley block, this rope, which hangs from a pole's cross arm, is strong enough for any job – from the routine hoisting of equipment to lifesaving missions.

## HARD HAT

A hard hat provides insulated protection against electrical hazards and shields the head from blows and falling objects.

## WOOD POLE FALL PROTECTION BELT

Before a lineworker starts climbing a pole, they loop a safety strap around the pole and rehook the strap to their equipment belt. This serves as an added safety precaution and allows the lineworker to work with both hands free.

## DITTY BAG

This canvas bag hangs from the equipment belt and holds the materials that lineworkers need at the ready for any number of jobs.

## BOOTS

These boots help prevent lineworkers from gaffing themselves in the leg. Serrated heels provide a better grip and steel shanks provide extra support on the pole.

## HAND LINE BLOCK

Lineworkers can't carry everything up on a pole, and the pulley block – the signature component of the hand line – is used to raise and lower heavy equipment.

## TOOL POUCH

This bag hangs from the back of the equipment belt and carries a wide variety of tools, such as pliers and wrenches.

## GAFFS

Razor-sharp steel points are strapped to boots for climbing poles. Only the tips dig into wood, helping lineworkers climb more safely and efficiently.

