

## Why I am a climate change skeptic - editorial by Patrick Moore

*(Editor's note about the author of this article: Patrick Moore was co-founder of Green Peace, a prominent environmental group. He's been a leader in international environmentalism for more than 40 years. Now he is one of the most forthright critics of the view human fossil fuel use is causing catastrophic global warming. Moore says increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide levels are actually good for humans and the rest of the planet, perhaps even staving off global environmental collapse. Moore serves as chair of Allow Golden Rice, and received the 2014 Speaks Truth to Power Award at the Ninth International Conference on Climate Change.)*



Patrick Moore

I am skeptical humans are the main cause of climate change and that it will be catastrophic in the near future. There is no scientific proof of this hypothesis, yet we are told “the debate is over” and “the science is settled.”

My skepticism begins with the believers' certainty they can predict the global climate with a computer model. The entire basis for the doomsday climate change scenario is the hypothesis increased atmospheric carbon dioxide due to fossil fuel emissions will heat the Earth to unlivable temperatures.

In fact, the Earth has been warming very gradually for 300 years, since the Little Ice Age ended, long before heavy use of fossil fuels. Prior to the Little Ice Age, during the Medieval Warm Period, Vikings colonized Greenland and Newfoundland, when it was warmer there than today. And during Roman times, it was warmer, long before fossil fuels revolutionized civilization.

The idea it would be catastrophic if carbon dioxide were to increase and average global temperature were to rise a few degrees is preposterous.

Recently, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) announced for the umpteenth time we are doomed unless we reduce carbon-dioxide emissions to zero. Effectively this means either reducing the population to zero, or going back 10,000 years before humans began clearing forests for agriculture. This proposed cure is far worse than adapting to a warmer world, if it actually comes about.

### IPCC conflict of interest

By its constitution, the IPCC has a hopeless conflict of interest. Its mandate is to consider only the human causes of global warming, not the many natural causes changing the climate for billions of years. We don't understand the natural causes of climate change any more than we know if humans are part of the cause at present. If the IPCC did not find humans were the cause of warming, or if it found warming would be more positive than negative, there would be no need for the IPCC under its present mandate. To survive, it must find on the side of the apocalypse. The IPCC should either have its mandate expanded to include all causes of climate change, or it should be dismantled.

### Political powerhouse

Climate change has become a powerful political force for many reasons. First, it is universal; we are told everything on Earth is threatened. Second, it invokes the two most powerful human motivators: fear and guilt. We fear driving our car will kill our grandchildren, and we feel guilty for doing it.

Third, there is a powerful convergence of interests among key elites who support the climate “narrative.” Environmentalists spread fear and raise donations; politicians appear to be saving the Earth from doom; the media has a field day with sensation and conflict; science institutions raise billions in grants, create whole new departments, and stoke a feeding frenzy of scary scenarios; business wants to look green, and get huge public subsidies for projects that would otherwise be economic losers, such as wind farms and solar arrays.

Fourth, the Left sees climate change as a perfect means to redistribute wealth from industrial countries to the developing world and the UN bureaucracy.

So we are told carbon dioxide is a “toxic” “pollutant” that must be curtailed, when, in fact, it is a colorless, odorless, tasteless, gas and the most important food for life on Earth. Without carbon dioxide above 150 parts per million, all plants would die.

### Human emissions saved planet

Over the past 150 million years, carbon dioxide had been drawn down steadily (by plants) from about 3,000 parts per million to about 280 parts per million before the Industrial Revolution. If this trend continued, the carbon dioxide level would have become too low to support life on Earth. Human fossil fuel use and clearing land for crops have boosted carbon dioxide from its lowest level in the history of the Earth back to 400 parts per million today.

At 400 parts per million, all our food crops, forests, and natural ecosystems are still on a starvation diet for carbon dioxide. The optimum level of carbon dioxide for plant growth, given enough water and nutrients, is about 1,500 parts per million, nearly four times higher than today. Greenhouse growers

(article continued on page 9)





# The EPA's Clean Power Plan (not quite yet)

## CHARLES RIESEN

Manager  
PKM Electric  
Cooperative

Two issues ago we discussed the EPA's Clean Power Plan with you. At that time, we were struggling with the fact that the EPA had upped North Dakota's CO<sub>2</sub> reduction from the 2014 version of 11 percent to the newly revised version of 45 percent. It was generally thought that the 2014 plan reduction of 11 percent was in recognition of North Dakota's vast development of wind power. The final plan that increased North Dakota's CO<sub>2</sub> reduction by more than 300 percent was quite a shock. Looking at the map of the winners/losers in the final rule was interesting. A person more cynical than I would think it had more to do

with electoral votes than perceived environmental harm.

A number of states (27 at last count) that are dependent on coal for jobs and low-cost electricity filed a suit against the EPA to stay the final rule to determine if the EPA even has the authority to regulate CO<sub>2</sub> (among other items) in this manner. The states were attempting to "stay" the final rule until the legal issues could be sorted out. The U.S. Court of Appeals rarely grants a stay, which last month they did deny the action by the states. However, the Supreme Court in a 5 to 4 decision, did issue a stay and remanded the case back to the Court of Appeals to be heard.

This is important and very heady stuff folks. By September of this year, states have to (or had to) – most states will go ahead is my guess – submit initial plans to meet the EPA's rules. The compliance period begins in January of 2022.

As of now I would think the "timelines" in the EPA's final rule

are up in the air. In Minnesota, the Pollution Control Agency will formulate the plan for compliance. I attended a meeting with the MPCA in Bemidji Feb. 16.

Two things are certain, whoever loses at the Court of Appeals will appeal to the Supreme Court, and it will be costly.

## Nominating committee

As with each annual meeting of your cooperative, three directors (one from each county served by the cooperative) will be elected at the annual meeting.

The nominating committee will meet during the first week in March and their names are listed in this issue of the *News*. The bylaws provide for two additional methods to become a candidate other than the nominating committee, and that is by petition of 15 member-owners 20 days prior to the meeting and by nominations from the floor at the meeting.

## Electrical Inspectors

### Marshall County & Kittson County

Scott Stenvik  
16409 State Hwy 1 N.W.  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701  
218-689-5406

### Polk County

Bryan Holmes  
218-686-1413

## January/February 2016

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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

218-745-4711 or 800-552-7366  
e-mail: [infopkm@minnkota.com](mailto:infopkm@minnkota.com)  
website: [www.pkmcoop.com](http://www.pkmcoop.com)

### Next Board Meeting:

Tuesday, February 23, 2016

### Officers and Directors

President ..... Ronald Reitmeier  
Vice President ..... Tom Woinarowicz  
Secretary-Treasurer ..... Gordon Bernstrom  
Directors ..... Michael Beaudry, Jeffrey Folland, Steve Goodwin,  
Jerod Hanson, Wayne Malm and Blake Owens  
Manager ..... Charles Riesen  
Editors ..... Deb Copp, Jeff Rustad, Chelsy Davey

## On the cover

Patrick Moore, a co-founder of the environmental group Green Peace, has become a skeptic of catastrophic man-made climate change. Read his editorial on pages 1 and 9.





# Supreme Court grants Minnkota, others stay in Clean Power Plan proceedings

On Feb. 9, the U.S. Supreme Court granted Minnkota Power Cooperative's and other petitioners' motion to stay the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan. In a 5-4 decision, the stay blocks the implementation of the rule until litigation has concluded. The state of North Dakota, where all of PKM's energy sources are located, has indicated that it will immediately suspend work on its state plan to comply with the rules.

Oral arguments on the rule's legality are set for June 2, 2016, in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. A decision could come from the appeals court late in 2016 or early in 2017. The case is widely expected to then head to the Supreme Court for review.

PKM and Minnkota are pleased that the Supreme Court recognized the Clean Power Plan's immediate impact and halted its implementation. In the short term, the court's ruling will prevent PKM and Minnkota's other cooperatives, employees and consumers at the end of the line from bearing the burden of the complex and far-reaching regulation.

PKM and Minnkota will remain

active in legal efforts that protect the well-being of our members, while also working to create a viable future for all energy sources through reasonable and achievable solutions.

"It is very rare and significant for the United States Supreme Court to suspend an entire, wide-sweeping agenda of the executive branch of the federal government," North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple said. "It has always been our position that the Obama administration has grossly overreached its authority in developing the EPA's emissions plan, and has not given real thought to the serious consequences to our national economy or to consumers' access to affordable electricity."

Stacey Dahl, Minnkota manager of external affairs, said the stay is unprecedented and an important legal victory.

"While significant hurdles related to the Clean Power Plan remain, the Supreme Court ensured the rule's legality will be decided on its merits first," Dahl said. "Many of the costs associated with the rule's implementation could not otherwise have been reversed."

John Graves, Minnkota's environ-



mental manager, said it is a step in the right direction, but it's not a done deal with respect to winning the battle against the Clean Power Plan.

"Now with the unfortunate death of conservative Justice Antonin Scalia the final outcome of legal actions concerning the Clean Power Plan have become even more uncertain," Graves said.

U.S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, D-N.D., said she thought the ruling might go the way it did – at least in the short term.

"These EPA rules would disproportionately hurt North Dakota and were written without taking into account the unique challenges utilities face in our state," she said.

## PKM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE POLITICAL LEADERS

### Federal legislators

#### President Barack Obama

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

#### Senator Al Franken

320 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
[www.alfranken.com](http://www.alfranken.com)

202-224-5641  
Fax: 202-224-0044

#### Senator Amy Klobuchar

302 Hart Senate Office 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

#### Congressman Collin Peterson

2109 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

[www.collinpeterson.house.gov](http://www.collinpeterson.house.gov)  
202-225-2165  
Fax: 202-225-1593

### State of Minnesota legislators

#### Governor Mark Dayton

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Capitol Building, Room 130  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606  
800-657-3717  
[mark.dayton@state.mn.us](mailto:mark.dayton@state.mn.us)

#### Senator LeRoy Stumpf

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Capitol Building, Room 122  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606  
651-296-8660  
Email: Use mail form

#### Representative Dan Fabian

307 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-9635

888-727-0979

[rep.dan.fabian@house.mn](mailto:rep.dan.fabian@house.mn)

#### Representative Deb Kiel

337 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-5091  
800-339-9041  
[rep.deb.kiel@house.mn](mailto:rep.deb.kiel@house.mn)



# PowerSavers program reaches energy-savings milestone



**T**he smart energy choices PKM Electric Cooperative members have made in recent years are starting to add up to big savings.

As a part of PowerSavers, your electric cooperative has partnered with other cooperatives and municipalities to offer a comprehensive set of energy-efficiency programs. Collectively, these utilities recently saved their 150 millionth kilowatt-hour (kWh) since PowerSavers was launched in 2010.

Utilities across the state of Minnesota are required to reduce electricity sales by 1.5 percent each year based on the most recent three-year weather normalized energy sales. The PowerSavers program has delivered at or above the 1.5 percent savings target since the goal went into effect in 2010.

Energy experts within the program work with residential, business and industrial consumers to find specific ways to improve energy use. Incentives are available for consumers who make qualifying energy efficiency or conservation improvements.

"We connect with consumers where they live and work to determine how they can best incorporate ways to use energy wisely," said Lisa Severson, energy conservation coordinator for the PowerSavers program. "We want to ensure they are getting the most savings for their energy dollar."

The participating utilities offer consistent programs designed to make an immediate impact on residential and commercial electricity use. The programs provide options for a variety of different consumers, ranging from low-income residents to the region's largest employers. Local schools and farms have also benefited.

Residential programs provide incentives to choose high-efficiency equipment at the time of normal equipment replacement or major renovations. Some of these technologies

include heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment, domestic hot water heaters and Energy Star® clothes washers. Simple improvements, such as the installation of high-efficiency light bulbs, low-flow showerheads and high-efficiency faucet aerators, are also supported.

Incentives for business owners cover a wide range of commercial equipment, including qualifying high-efficiency HVAC technologies, lighting, motors and drives, variable speed drives and food service equipment.

In many cases, the expertise provided by the PowerSavers utility is just as valuable as the incentive.

"The cooperatives and municipalities that participate in PowerSavers are trusted energy advisors," Severson said. "They have the knowledge and experience to help consumers make wise energy decisions that may help lower their bill."

To learn more about the PowerSavers program, please visit **[pkmcoop.com](http://pkmcoop.com)** or call 745-4711 or 1-800-552-7366.

– Submitted by Minnkota  
Communications Staff





## 2016 PowerSavers Residential Incentives for Members

PowerSavers incentives, criteria and guidelines for resident and business members can be found at [www.pkmcoop.com](http://www.pkmcoop.com) or by calling 218-745-4711 or 800-552-7366.

Equipment	Specifications	Rebate
CFL bulb	Replace incandescent bulb with CFL. ENERGY STAR® recommended.	\$2/bulb
LED Screw-In Bulb	40-60W equivalent incandescent. ENERGY STAR recommended.	\$4/bulb
LED Screw-In Bulb	65W or greater equivalent incandescent. ENERGY STAR recommended.	\$8/bulb
LED Fixture	Complete fixture or replacement kit. ENERGY STAR recommended.	\$8/install
LED Outdoor Fixture	LED Outdoor Fixture Wattage of <40 Watts. Dusk to dawn operation required. DesignLights™ Consortium or ENERGY STAR recommended.	\$20/fixture
LED Outdoor Fixture	LED Outdoor Fixture Wattage of >40 Watts. Dusk to dawn operation required. DesignLights™ Consortium or ENERGY STAR recommended.	\$40/fixture
Clothes Washer	Must be ENERGY STAR approved.	\$50/unit
Clothes Dryer	Must be ENERGY STAR approved.	\$50/unit
Refrigerator or Freezer	Must be ENERGY STAR approved.	\$25/unit
Remove & Recycle Old Refrigerator or Freezer	Recycling receipt required. Form online in Residential Incentives Application.	\$25/unit
Engine Block Heater Timer		\$10/unit
Electric Water Heater	Minimum 80-gallon total capacity, EF ≥0.91. Must be controlled under the utility's load management program.	\$150/unit
Programmable Thermostat		\$25/unit
Tune-Up for Central AC	Not valid on window AC units. Checklist on form must be completed with application.	\$25/unit
Tune-Up for Air-Source Heat Pump or Mini-Split Ductless Air-Source Heat Pump	Checklist on form must be completed with application.	\$25/unit
Supplemental Heating Source Air-Source Heat Pump	Must modulate to allow ENERGY STAR-rated Air-Source Heat Pump to operate down to 5° F and be on load control.	\$500/unit
Air-Source Heat Pump	14 SEER, 8.2 HSPF	\$400/unit
Air-Source Heat Pump	15 SEER, 8.5 HSPF	\$500/unit
Furnace (Air Handler) with ECM Blower	Furnace with an ECM Blower	\$100/unit
Mini-Split/Ductless Air-Source Heat Pump	15 SEER	\$500/unit
Ground-Source Heat Pump Open Loop <135,000 BTUH @ 59° F	16.2 EER/3.6 COP Maximum incentive \$2,500/home	\$200/ton
Ground-Source Heat Pump Closed Loop <135,000 BTUH @ 77° F	14.1 EER/3.3 COP Maximum incentive \$5,000/home	\$400/ton
Air Sealing	Pre and post blower test results required.	30% of sealing cost, max. \$300
Attic Insulation & Air Sealing	Must include air sealing. Improved from R-30 or less to R-50. Attic knee walls insulated to a minimum of R-25 up to R-30.	30% of sealing cost, max. \$500
Wall Insulation	Wall insulation improved from R-5 or less to R-11 or higher. Attic knee walls excluded.	30% of insulation cost, max. \$500

# Time is running out!

– on the –

## ELECTRIC HEATING REBATE PROGRAM!

PKM Electric's electric heating rebate program expires

**MAY 31, 2016**

All equipment must be installed before that date.

### \$20/kW rebate on new off-peak electric heating equipment

- Must be the primary heating source.
- Must be new equipment but can be used in existing off-peak system.
- Must be on off-peak with qualified backup heating system.
- Must be hard-wired and equipped with off-peak meter.

### Heat pump incentives

- Air-source heat pump – \$100/ton.
- Ground-source heat pump – \$200/ton. Heating mode must be controlled on off-peak.

Rebate will be issued as a credit on your bill after a visit from a PKM Electric technician.

*Maximum incentive per off-peak meter is \$600.*

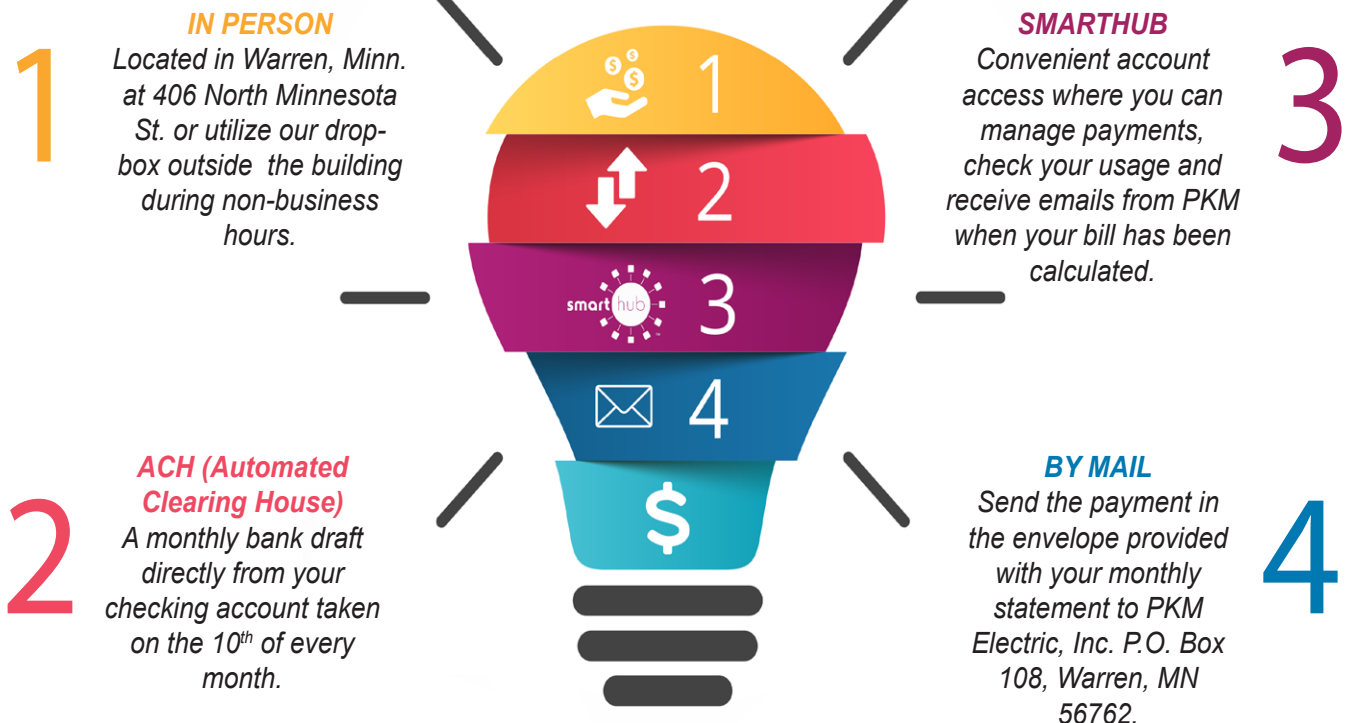
**HOMEOWNERS ADDING NEW OFF-PEAK HEATING SYSTEMS QUALIFY FOR THESE REBATES.**

**Contact our Member Services Department for details at**

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# 4 WAYS TO PAY



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[pkmcoop.smarthub.coop](http://pkmcoop.smarthub.coop)



Please contact us at 218.745.4711 with any questions.

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I authorize \_\_\_\_\_ and the financial institution named

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(NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION)

(BRANCH)

(CITY)

(STATE)

(ZIP CODE)

(SIGNATURE)

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(NAME- PLEASE PRINT)

(ADDRESS- PLEASE PRINT)

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Checking ☐ Savings ☐

Financial Institution Routing Number \_\_\_\_\_

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Energy Efficiency

*Tip of the Month*

Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using rigid venting material – not plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages.

— Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

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## **October 1, 2015—May 31, 2016**

**To request an application form:**

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Northwest Community Action, Inc.  
312 North Main Street  
PO Box 67  
Badger, MN 56714

**Call**

Phone: 218-528-3258  
Toll-Free: 800-568-5329

**Visit our Website**

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

### **INCOME GUIDELINES**

<b>Family Size</b>	<b>3-Month Gross Income</b>	<b>Yearly Gross Income</b>
1	\$5,987	\$23,949
2	\$7,829	\$31,318
3	\$9,671	\$38,687
4	\$11,514	\$46,056
5	\$13,356	\$53,424
6	\$15,198	\$60,793

- Households may apply only once during our program year (October 1, 2015 – May 31, 2016).
- Both homeowners and renters may be eligible.
- Home visits are available for homebound applicants, upon request.
- Households requesting assistance in completing the application are encouraged to phone our office to set up an appointment.
- Households who received assistance under last year's program automatically received a new application form in the mail in September 2015.
- **You are responsible for your heating and electric bills until you hear from NWCA.**

*The Energy Assistance Program is funded by the Minnesota Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.*



# Why I am a climate change skeptic

(article continued from page 1)

inject carbon dioxide to increase yields. Farms and forests will produce more if carbon dioxide keeps rising.

We have no proof increased carbon dioxide is responsible for the Earth's slight warming over the past 300 years. There has been no significant warming for 18 years while we have emitted 25 percent of all the carbon dioxide ever emitted. Carbon dioxide is vital for life on

Earth and plants would like more of it. Which should we emphasize to our children?

## Celebrate carbon dioxide

The IPCC's followers have given us a vision of a world dying because of carbon-dioxide emissions. I say the Earth would be a lot deader with no carbon dioxide, and more of it will be a very positive factor in feeding the world. Let's celebrate carbon dioxide.



## Apply now for a PKM scholarship!

Applications available at local high schools, the PKM office or can be downloaded from our website, [www.pkmcoop.com](http://www.pkmcoop.com).



- Individuals in PKM's service area who are members of the cooperative, their spouses or children.
- Applicants planning to attend an accredited postsecondary educational institution in pursuit of their initial postsecondary degree. These institutions could include technical colleges, universities or colleges.
- Eligible applicants include high school seniors, active college students enrolled in

an accredited institution in pursuit of their initial degree and nontraditional students who are initiating or resuming their education in pursuit of their initial postsecondary degree. Nontraditional students include "older than average students" or individuals who did not begin a program after high school. This could also include students whose first postsecondary degree was interrupted.

\* **Deadline: April 15, 2016**

## Nominating committee APPOINTED

At their December meeting, the PKM board of directors appointed a nominating committee to nominate candidates for the board of directors, to be voted on by the members at the annual meeting on April 5, 2016.

The nominating committee will meet prior to March 11. Members who may have an interest in being a candidate for the board of directors should inform the committee of your interest.

The bylaws of the cooperative provide for two additional methods 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. The bylaws provide further for nominations to be made from the floor at the annual meeting. **Members appointed to the committee are:**

**Paul Reitmeier, Crookston**  
**Mike Tiedeman, Euclid**  
**Jason Cadieux, Hallock**  
**Jason Sobolik, Drayton**  
**Leif Aakre, Stephen**  
**Jonathan Bolduc, Stephen**  
**Brian Jensen, Stephen**

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# Board meeting highlights

November and December

## A special meeting of the board was held Monday, Nov. 23, 2015.

Ron Reitmeier, president who presided, called the meeting to order. Upon calling the roll, the secretary was in route to the meeting, Director Owens participated by phone and all other directors were present.

The vice president reported on recent MREA activities, indicating that Legislative strategy for the coming year was discussed. CIP reform appears to be on everyone's mind.

Director Folland reported on the recent meeting of the Minnkota Power Cooperative board of directors, indicating that the budget has been approved and it includes a 3.35 percent increase across the board in wholesale power components for 2016.

The secretary/treasurer reported on Square Butte Electric Cooperative activities. The manager of operations presented the monthly safety report, indicating no accidents and no lost time. On Nov. 3, MREA held a safety meeting where the topic was "CT Metering." The operations managers from District 1 held a meeting at Beltrami Electric where the topics were "Vehicle Locating" and "iPads in Line Trucks," which appears to be catching on around the district. On Nov. 16, Minnesota Safety held a safety meeting on the "New Material Data Safety Rules and Guidelines." Border States Electric held an information session on the new Cooper regulator control panels.

The operations manager continued his monthly report detailing activities of the line department. Other members of the management staff and the manager presented reports to the board of directors and answered questions from the directors concerning their reports.

The president stated that since the auditors have been contracted for a three-year period of time, that the engagement letter was a formality, but he was desirous of a resolution approving the engagement letter. The letter was approved and the president was instructed to sign the engagement letter for the auditor.

The manager presented the 2016 operating budget to the board of directors, mentioning the revision made to annual kilowatt-hour sales and a 6.8 percent rate adjustment beginning in January 2016. The manager stated that the revised operating budget is projected to provide an operating tier of 1.7. There was no action taken on the operating budget at this time.

The manager presented the 2016 capital budget to the board of directors indicating no changes for the exception of typos that occurred on the October presentation. There was no action taken on the capital budget at this time.

The manager described for the directors the No Lost Time Safety Award that was presented by Federated representing 175,824 hours with no lost time going back to March 11, 2011. The manager stated that he shared the goal and the presentation with the employees and thanked the board of directors for their commitment to safety and seeing that the cooperative had all resources necessary to assist in this record.

The operations manager told of a trapshooting club to be organized by the Argyle Sportsman's

Club and that they required electrical service. Presently the location is within 200 feet of Otter Tail Power Company and the cooperative would have to build nearly a ¼ mile of line. The Sportsman's Club has requested a release for this service to reduce the cost of the project. The board decided that trapshooting is becoming a new sport within the State of Minnesota and will hereby construct electric service to the Argyle Sportsman's Club in recognition of the community development aspects of the service at no charge to the Argyle Sportsman's Club.

After motion duly made and seconded, the board went into executive session to discuss proposed negotiations with Otter Tail Power Company in the matter before the administrative law judge.

The president returned the meeting to regular order. The president directed the attention of the board to upcoming meetings and told them to make arrangements with the executive assistant for attendance to those meetings they deemed important.

The president stated that the planning meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, Nov. 24, 2015, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Grand Forks, N.D., at 8 a.m.

## A regular meeting of the board was held Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015.

Tom Woinarowicz, vice president acting as president pro-tem called the meeting to order. Upon calling the roll, the secretary reported that all directors with the exception of Steve Goodwin, Wayne Malm and President Ron Reitmeier were present.

The board of directors discussed the planning meeting and mentioned that the facilitator did a good job but the meeting lacked finality. The manager stated that the three issues that are interconnected 1) equity, 2) capital additions and 3) capital re-volvement are issues that this board and previous boards have struggled with. The finality comes when the board makes a decision on the parameters that they will use for these three items.

The president pro-tem discussed a recent meeting of the MREA board of directors and reminded the board that the stray voltage policy and net metering are important issues, and encouraged management to present a policy for stray voltage and to consult with MREA on the net metering issue.

Director Folland reported on a recent meeting of the Minnkota board of directors, wherein; RUS has required a financial forecast and the same sensitivity that PKM had to produce for the last loan. The long-range forecast for wholesale power rates was not optimistic.

Several board committees met during the month of December and presented their reports to the board of directors.

The manager of operations presented the monthly safety report, indicating no accidents and no lost time. On Dec. 9, MREA presented a "Speak Up Listen Up" training for all employees and on Dec. 15, Bob Kliner held a safety committee meeting with the employees of the committee and the board committee. Scott Slusar attended MREA's Loss Control workshop in St. Cloud and he will be working with Rick Bye to assume the majority of the duties of Bob Kliner.

The operations manager continued his monthly report, indicating that we are converting all substation breakers to non-re-close as part of our ARC FLASH program and the funds for this will end up being capitalized. New customers for the end of November stood at 3,801, representing an increase of 25 from the same period last year.

Other members of the management staff presented their monthly reports and responded to questions from the directors concerning their reports.

The president pro-tem reminded the directors of ACRE and REPAC contributions and this notice will be run next month for those who were not at the meeting.

The manager stated that it would be necessary for the board to select a nominating committee to





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Ads for PKM members only. Limit your ads to two items. No commercial ads. Submit ads by the 18<sup>th</sup> of Jan., March, May, July, Sept. and Nov.

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caucus prior to the annual meeting in accordance with the bylaws and nominate candidates for the board of directors to be voted upon by the members at the 2016 annual meeting.

The board nominated PKM member-owners: Paul Reitmeier, Crookston; Mike Tiedeman, Euclid; Jason Cadieux, Hallock; Jason Sobolik, Drayton; Leif Aakre, Stephen; Jonathan Bolduc, Stephen; and Brian Jensen, Stephen. This committee will be compensated a fee of \$25 and applicable mileage for their attendance to the nominating committee meeting.

The manager explained to the board that

# Statistical and financial report

Year-to-date: December 2015

	Last Year	This Year	Budget
Total income	\$ 14,429,565	\$ 13,420,820	\$ 13,750,000
Total expense	\$ 13,003,873	\$ 13,407,927	\$ 12,954,400
Net margins	\$ 1,425,692	\$ 12,893	\$ 795,600
Total kWh sold	137,937,491	120,477,339	118,500,000
Avg. kWh sold per member	3,074	2,663	
Delivery cost per kWh purchased	6.72¢	7.80¢	
Avg. sale price per kWh	10.46¢	11.14¢	
Percent kWh sales increase	6.0%	(12.7%)	
Members billed	3,721	3,769	
Miles of line in service	2,248	2,261	
175 watt MV lights	1,487	1,457	
400 watt MV lights	93	91	
100 watt H.P.S.	879	876	
250 watt H.P.S.	87	87	

Outage charged to:	2015	2014	2013
Minnkota operations	4,048.19	4,005.20	3,112.20
PKM operations	4,604.42	5,947.40	3,704.33
Total	8,652.61	9,952.60	6,816.53

**Minutes per member PKM operations year to date: 73.12**

**Minutes per member Minnkota operations year to date: 64.29**

although the corporate debt limit was removed from the Articles of the Cooperative in 1977, RUS has in its loan documents a debt limit of \$25 million. The present loan of the cooperative exceeds that \$25 million debt limit by a half million dollars and it will be necessary for the board of directors to approve by resolution an increased debt limit. The manager further explained to the board that RUS considers the debt limit to be the total amount of all loans made from day one regardless if principal has been paid or not. The board instructed the secretary to certify the resolution increasing the cooperative's debt limit to \$40,000,000.

Members of the rate committee met on Dec. 15, wherein; the case was made necessitating the need for an adjustment for retail rates. It was recommended that effective Feb. 1, 2016, the residential rate be increased 7.6 percent from 11.6¢ per kilowatt-hour to 12.6¢ per kilowatt-hour.

The board approved by roll call vote the residential rate to be increased 7.6 percent from 11.6¢ per kilowatt-hour to 12.6¢ per kilowatt-hour. The roll call vote was as follows:

Gordon Bernstrom	Yes
Jerod Hanson	Yes
Blake Owens	Yes
Mike Beaudry	Yes
Jeff Folland	Yes
Tom Woinarowicz	Yes

The manager stated that with the retirement

of Bob Kliner it would be necessary to appoint a new individual to be in charge of policy bulletin 4-1, "entitled Controlled Substances and Alcohol Abuse." The operations manager H. R. Bye has consented to fill in this position and it is the recommendation of the manager that policy 4-0.1 including Mr. Bye's name be adopted. The board designated H. R. Bye as the coordinator to the "Controlled Substances and Alcohol Abuse" Policy No. 4-0.1.

At 9:55 a.m. a motion was made to go into executive session. At 10:10 a.m. the president pro-tem returned the meeting to regular order.

The agreement with Otter Tail Power Company was discussed by the board of directors and found that it met all the requirements of the rate committee and all questions were answered by the board of directors. The board resolved to execute the formal agreement with Otter Tail Power Company concerning the issue before the administrative law judge.

The manager stated that the cooperative would be wise to make another request to the CFC Integrity Fund to attempt to recover 50 percent of its legal cost. The board resolved to make a formal request of the CFC Integrity Fund in the amount of \$50,000.

The president pro-tem reminded the board of directors of Bob Kliner's retirement and that he rendered 35 years of selfless, dedicated and unceasing service to PKM Electric Cooperative, Inc. and its member-owners.

# Co-ops launch non-partisan voter engagement program

*Written by Justin LaBerge, NRECA*

America's electric cooperatives have launched a non-partisan, nationwide effort to promote civic engagement and voter participation in the communities they serve.

Jeffrey Connor, interim CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, unveiled the Co-ops Vote program at the association's 74<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in New Orleans.

"Through Co-ops Vote, we want to help our members know when elections are, what's at stake and how to make their voices heard," Connor said. "Who folks vote for isn't really as important as the fact that they do vote."

The Co-ops Vote initiative will focus on eight issues that are important to health and prosperity of communities served by electric cooperatives:

- ✓ Rural Broadband Access
- ✓ Hiring and Honoring Veterans
- ✓ Low-Income Energy Assistance
- ✓ Cybersecurity
- ✓ Water Regulation
- ✓ Rural Health Care Access
- ✓ Affordable and Reliable Energy
- ✓ Renewable Energy

"Electric cooperatives are perfectly designed to help address these important issues," Connor said. "We can make politics 'local' again because civic engagement is part of our DNA." A new website,

**vote.coop**, offers co-op members information on the voter registration process in their state, dates of elections, information on the candidates running in those elections and explanations of the eight key issues the campaign aims to address.

In keeping with its non-partisan goals, the initiative will not be endorsing specific candidates for office.

Mel Coleman, president of NRECA and CEO of North Arkansas Electric Cooperative, said the program would help ensure the voices of rural Americans are heard.

"We want to make sure our government knows that rural America matters," Coleman said. "This campaign isn't about divisive, partisan issues. It's about real people in real places facing real challenges. It's about our co-ops living out the principles of our movement: Concern for community and democratic control."

Connor cited partisan gridlock in Washington, the explosive growth of money in politics and the effects of gerrymandering as important reasons for launching the program. In 2014, 318 of 435 House races had a margin of victory of 20 points or more, and 30 House candidates – 16 Democrats and 14 Republicans representing 11 states – didn't even face an opponent in the general election.

"Elections aren't won and lost in November anymore," Connor said. "They're really decided in primaries months sooner, when fewer voters recognize the opportunity to vote, fewer participate and only a handful of issues are up for debate."

## CO-OPS



## VOTE

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ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

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This results in a Congress where more members represent the extremes of each political party and are less inclined to seek compromise and bipartisan solutions to problems.

"The electric cooperative movement has always been non-partisan, and our communities are facing too many challenges to have a government crippled by bickering," Coleman said. "When our parents and grandparents set out to electrify rural America, they didn't have time to ask the person next to them about their views on economic or social policy. Their economic policy was 'we need to save this community' and their social policy was 'let's do it together.' I hope the Co-ops Vote program can help rekindle that spirit of cooperation."

For more information about Co-ops Vote and the impact of these eight key issues on the people of PKM Electric Cooperative, visit **vote.coop**.

