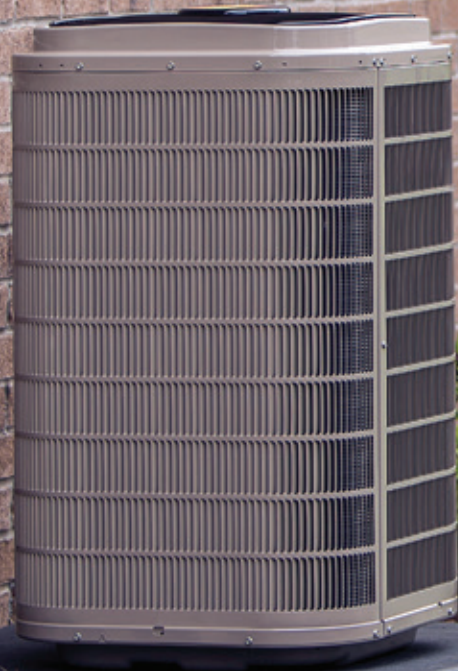


Energy Efficiency Incentives

Great rebates and incentives are available to help you upgrade your systems before the winter season.

LEARN MORE ON PAGE 8



Helpful services for you / **6**
Cold weather disconnect rule / **9**
Financial assistance available / **12**



CEO Report

MIKE SCHMIDT
CEO
PKM Electric Co-op

would like to report on strong financials through the third quarter of 2020. Total revenues are up, power costs are down and margins remain strong. Equity and cash flows are excellent and remain within board goals.

PKM just completed a four-year work plan, and we are starting work on the 2021-2024 work plan. The board is considering various options for burying older single-phase lines. We are planning for more meter replacements next year, continuing the conversion of our PLC (power line carrier) metering system to an RF system.

Carr's Tree Service completed some right-of-way (ROW) clearing in Kittson County where we had outage problems from trees earlier this year. ROW clearing is a never-ending activity. PKM owns our own track machine that sees a lot of use as well.

Pole testing has been completed for 2020, with 1,451 of our 35,000 poles tested – about 4.2%. This year's reject rate was 2.6%, with 38 rejected poles scheduled to be replaced along with our normal replacements.

The 2021 budget is also in the works. There are no plans for a rate adjustment in 2021.

The board continues to operate semi-remotely, with board meetings consisting of the three board officers and myself in the boardroom, with the six remaining board members calling in. We are taking care of business, but a split meeting lacks something compared to meeting as a full board.

Kittson County director Mark Hatton now chairs the PKM board.

Marshall County director Tom Woinarowicz is a director on the Minnkota Power Cooperative board. Polk County director Paul Aakre chairs the Square Butte Electric Cooperative board. All of your directors take substantial training to stay on top of changes in the industry and keep your cooperative moving forward for the best interests of the membership.

October is Cooperative Month. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

7 Cooperative Principles

-  **1 VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP**
-  **2 DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL**
-  **3 MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION**
-  **4 AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE**
-  **5 EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION**
-  **6 COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES**
-  **7 CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY**

Electrical Inspectors

Polk County

George Stage
218-284-1083

Marshall and Kittson Counties

Ronald Ditsch
218-779-6758

September/October 2020 (Vol. 74, No. 5)

The PKM News (USPS 417060) is published six times a year: February, April, June, August, October and December, by PKM Electric Cooperative, Inc., 406 N. Minnesota St., Warren, MN 56762. Periodicals postage paid at Warren, MN. Subscription 25¢/year for members, \$2.50/year for non-members. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to PKM Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 108, Warren, MN 56762-0108.

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
website: www.pkmcoop.com

Next board meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2020

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.

California blackouts show need for all-of-the-above energy strategy



Amid a global pandemic, millions of Californians were plunged into darkness this summer as heatwaves battered the state's electric grid.

Rolling blackouts were required as record-setting temperatures pushed the demand for electricity well above the available generation resources at times during Aug. 14-15. California's Independent System Operator (CAISO), the entity that manages the state's grid, ordered utilities to impose temporary blackouts for the first time in nearly two decades, pulling the plug on air conditioners, refrigerators, TVs and other electric appliances when consumers needed them most. In addition to the outages, CAISO spent significant stretches of the summer pleading with consumers to reduce their electricity usage as it dealt with system instability.

There are several causes of this crisis, but a primary issue is the overreliance on intermittent resources, such as wind and solar, while undervaluing generation resources that can operate 24/7. CAISO experienced this issue firsthand on Aug. 14, as the wind stopped blowing that evening and nearly 1,000 megawatts (MW) of wind generation vanished from the grid without warning. No additional dispatchable generation, such as coal, natural gas or nuclear, was available to meet the demand, leaving communities in the dark.

In October, CAISO completed a preliminary root-cause analysis of the summer blackouts. The analysis found that "resource planning targets have not kept pace to lead to sufficient resources that can be relied upon to meet demand in the early evening hours (as the sun goes down and solar farms no longer operate). This makes balancing

demand and supply more challenging. These challenges were amplified by the extreme heat storm."

California Gov. Gavin Newsom said, "Collectively, energy regulators failed to anticipate this event and to take necessary actions to ensure reliable power to Californians. This cannot stand. California residents and businesses deserve better from their government."

Following the events in California, consumers across the Minkota member systems have asked if a similar situation could happen in Minnesota and North Dakota. The answer is yes. To date, utilities have been able to collaborate through the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), which manages the electric grid in the Upper Midwest, to remove the risk of rolling blackouts. There have, however, been several emergency situations in recent years that have presented significant challenges for utilities, including the polar vortex event in January 2019. With limited production from wind and solar facilities due to extreme cold conditions, the electric grid remained reliable thanks in large part to the operation of dispatchable resources. Future plans to retire dispatchable resources and replace them with intermittent resources has the potential to create and accelerate grid reliability challenges in the Upper Midwest.

Renewable energy remains an important part of the future of the energy grid, but it is not positioned to stand alone as the only resource. The California blackouts should serve as a reminder that an all-of-the-above energy strategy must be embraced to ensure the region has a reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible supply of electricity – now and in the future.



Four ways to be Cyber safe



We all know the internet can be dangerous and scary. Experts warn of a triple threat these days. First, scammers are taking advantage of COVID-19 uncertainty, from offering phony cures and tests to promises of financial assistance. Second, with more people working from home due to social distancing, there may be fewer office-based security measures in place. Third, the FBI warns that increased use of mobile banking offers more chances for cybercrime. So, here are four cybersecurity tips to keep you safe:

Use strong passwords

And change them regularly – many sites and apps make that easy to do by clicking on the “forgot your password” link. The best passwords are at least eight characters and include different types of characters – try using a memorable verse from your favorite song and adding a few numbers and special characters (\$!_&), or even a space. If you are like most people, remembering all your passwords is a challenge.

Choose a security option based on the value of what you’re protecting. The options you use to secure your bank and retirement account passwords might be different than how you store your social media passwords.

Password apps keep them in one place and may be a great option for some passwords, but you can be in big trouble if you forget the password that lets you into that app. Keeping passwords on paper or in a notebook might be more secure than using the same password for everything, depending on how secure and hidden that paper is from other people at the office or kids at home.

Install software updates

Your apps and operating systems will periodically send updates. Install them – they often include protections against the latest security threats. But remember, those updates come from the apps and not from emails or social media notices. An email containing an update may be a scam – instead of clicking on the link, go to the app’s website to see if there really are updates available.

Use two-factor authentication

That phrase is just a fancy word for a technique that adds an extra layer of security in addition to a password. Banks increasingly use this system – when you try to con-

nect with them, the bank may text a code number to your phone that you type in to complete the sign-in process for your account.

Keep in mind that answering a security question is similar to having a password – both are something you know. Answering a security question won’t provide the same level of additional security as that of a second factor. A second factor will be something you have, like your phone to receive a passcode, or something you are, like a biometric fingerprint, in addition to something you know, like a password or security question.

Think before you click

Be wary of any offer or link that comes through the internet, whether by email or social media, or even a phone call instructing you to get online. Don’t click on a link unless you know for certain what it is. Ideally, you should be expecting to receive the link. Even emails from friends should be suspect – hackers can impersonate someone you know to send a link or an attachment, and either can result in you downloading malware that can take control of your computer in ways you may not even be able to detect.

If you have any doubt, whether it’s a link to a software update or an attachment to a funny cat video, give the sender a phone call to find out if they really sent it or if it’s a scam.



Cybersecurity Tip

Create long passwords that only you will remember and change them every six months. A strong password is at least eight characters long.

Energy Efficiency TIP OF THE MONTH

Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

Source: energy.gov

DIGGING SOON?



**ALWAYS CALL
BEFORE YOU DIG**

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense. Safe digging is no accident: always call 811 before you dig.

Visit www.call811.com for more information.

COLOR CODING FOR MARKING UNDERGROUND UTILITIES

WHITE	Proposed excavation
PINK	Temporary survey markings
RED	Electric power lines, cables, conduit and lighting cables
YELLOW	Gas, oil, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials
ORANGE	Communication, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduit
BLUE	Water
PURPLE	Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines
GREEN	Sewer and drain lines



HELP KEEP ELECTRIC LINE WORKERS SAFE



Be patient when the power goes out. Workers need to work efficiently and **safely** to restore power.



ZONE IN ON SAFETY



Respect **roadside** work crews.



Don't drive distracted.
Reduce your speed.
Change lanes.

1 work zone crash occurs every **5.4 minutes**



70 work zone crashes result in **injuries each day**



12 work zone crashes result in at least **1 fatality each week**



Never plug a generator into a wall outlet in your home or garage. The power that back feeds into the electric line **could electrocute a utility worker** or neighbor.



DON'T post signs on **utility poles**.

Foreign objects can **tear** utility workers' **protective clothing**, which is the first line of protection from an **electric shock**.



Electric line workers **RANK 15** on the list of **25 MOST DANGEROUS JOBS** in America. Help keep them safe!



Learn more at SafeElectricity.org

Convenient and helpful Services FOR you



SmartHub

Manage your account like never before with the new, improved SmartHub. Daily energy usage details are right upfront, allowing you to monitor your account quickly and easily. The same great SmartHub features – view and pay your bill and more – are available at the tap of a button with the new SmartHub. To sign up for SmartHub, either go to www.pkmcoop.com or download the app on your phone or device. You will need to know your account number to sign on.



Off-peak

You can save about 45% off the basic price of electricity if you have an approved off-peak electric heating system with an automatic backup source or approved storage backup. Go to www.pkmcoop.com or call 218-745-4711 to learn more.

Rebates

Want to save energy and money? Then check out our rebates on page 8 or go to www.pkmcoop.com. You'll find rebates for super-efficient options such as heat pumps and floor heat – the ultimate in comfort. Your co-op also sells efficient and money-saving large capacity water heaters. Give member services a call at 218-745-4711 to discuss what may be right for you.



Autopay

Set it and forget it with autopay – the easy way to pay. Stop the hassle of writing a check when you sign up for autopay. Just go to www.pkmcoop.com and print off the form to send in with a voided check. You can also set up payments via SmartHub.



Budget billing

Know exactly what your bill will be each month when you sign up for budget billing. This program is excellent for members who have larger or smaller bills based on the season. The plan works best when started in the spring in order to build a large enough reserve to carry through the winter. Go to www.pkmcoop.com to print the form.



Payment options

Want easy ways to pay? You can pay by check, SmartHub, autopay or by mail.



Check us out online to learn more about our member programs!

www.pkmcoop.com

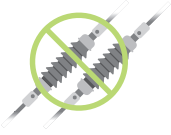


ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR HUNTERS

This hunting season, we encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment and take necessary precautions while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.



Take notice of posted warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.



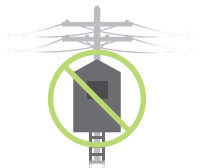
Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.



Know where power lines and equipment are located on the land where you hunt.



Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.



Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.



Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Any non-electrical equipment attached to a pole can pose an obstruction and serious hazards to our line crews.

WATT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter

Prevents electrical shock by detecting variations in current.

Install in areas where water and electricity are in close proximity.

Test outlets with GFCIs monthly; if they don't work properly, consult your electrician.



Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter

Prevents electrical fires caused by arc flash. Usually installed by an electrician.

An arc is an electrical discharge that can cause intense heat or light.

It interrupts the circuit when it detects an arc or other abnormalities in the flow of electricity.



Tamper Resistant Outlet

Prevents shocks caused by tampering with an outlet.

The protective shutters are designed to move when a plug is correctly inserted.

Became part of the National Electrical Code in 2008; if your home does not have these, install childproof devices.

Is your off-peak heating system

Ready for Winter?

It's hard to believe winter is right around the corner. Since weather conditions and future wholesale power prices make the amount of load control hard to predict, all of our members with off-peak heating systems are encouraged to have a reliable, automatic dual heating or thermal storage system in place and ready to use when you need it.

To ensure your total comfort this winter, consider the following questions:

1. Is the system sized to heat your entire home or business?
2. Does it maintain an adequate comfort level?
3. Is it fully automatic?

Check current fuel prices and be sure to fill your propane or fuel oil tank at the beginning of the season. Also, make sure your tank is large enough to hold an adequate supply. If your tank gets low during periods of extreme cold temps, it may not work properly.

If you have any questions regarding your off-peak heating system, contact your cooperative today at 218-745-4711 or 800-552-7366.

Energy Efficiency Incentives

Great rebates and incentives are available to help you upgrade your heating and cooling system, water heater and electric vehicle chargers. Not sure where to start? Check out our rebate list below for heating, cooling and charging options. Contact PKM Electric Cooperative for expert advice on improving your home's energy performance.

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

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

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

Contact our Energy Services Department for more details!

218-745-4711 or 800-552-7366

Electric thermal storage heat

The **PERFECT POWER PICK** for your retirement

You're retirees seeking the worry-free life of family, fun and relaxation. Kick back and enjoy the no-fuss comfort, reliability and savings of **electric thermal storage heat**.

Contact the energy experts at PKM Electric to find the perfect power pick for your space.

218-745-4711 or 1-800-552-7366
www.pkmcoop.com

Up to \$80/kW in rebates!

ELECTRIC THERMAL STORAGE HEAT

- Efficiently stores warmth in bricks for when you need it
- Provides consistent and uniform heat
- Eliminates need for backup heat source
- Clean and maintenance-free
- Qualifies for super-low off-peak electricity rate



Cold Weather Disconnect Rule Notifications

216B.097 COLD WEATHER RULE; COOPERATIVE OR MUNICIPAL UTILITY

Subd. 1. Application; notice to residential customer. (a) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a residential customer during the period between Oct. 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The household income of the customer is at or below 50% of the state median household income. A municipal utility or cooperative electric association utility may (i) verify income on forms it provides or (ii) obtain verification of income from the local energy assistance provider. A customer is deemed to meet the income requirements of this clause if the customer receives any form of public assistance, including energy assistance, that uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50% of the state median household income.

(2) A customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.

(3) A customer receives referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills.

(b) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must, between Aug. 15 and Oct. 15 each year, notify all residential customers of the provisions of this section.

Subd. 2. Notice to residential customer facing disconnection. Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the period between Oct. 15 and April 15, a municipal utility or cooperative electric association must provide the following information to a customer:

- (1) a notice of proposed disconnection;
- (2) a statement explaining the customer's rights and responsibilities;
- (3) a list of local energy assistance providers;
- (4) forms on which to declare inability to pay; and
- (5) a statement explaining available time payment plans and other opportunities to secure continued utility service.

Subd. 3. Restrictions if disconnection necessary. (a) If a residential customer must be involuntarily disconnected between Oct. 15 and April 15 for failure to comply with subdivision 1, the disconnection must not occur:

(1) on a Friday, unless the customer declines to enter into a payment agreement offered that day in person or via personal contact by telephone by a municipal utility or cooperative electric association;

(2) on a weekend, holiday or the day before a holiday;

(3) when utility offices are closed; or

(4) after the close of business on a day when disconnection is permitted, unless a field representative of a municipal utility or cooperative electric association who is authorized to enter into a payment agreement, accept payment, and continue service, offers a payment agreement to the customer.

Further, the disconnection must not occur until at least 20 days after the notice required in subdivision 2 has been mailed to the customer or 15 days after the notice has been personally delivered to the customer.

(b) If a customer does not respond to a disconnection notice, the customer must not be disconnected until the utility investigates whether the residential unit is actually occupied. If the unit is found to be occupied, the utility must immediately inform the occupant of the provisions of this section. If the unit is unoccupied, the utility must give seven days' written notice of the proposed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider before making a disconnection.

(c) If, prior to disconnection, a customer appeals a notice of involuntary disconnection, as provided by the utility's established appeal procedure, the utility must not disconnect until the appeal is resolved.

Subd. 4. Application to service limiters. For the purposes of this section, "disconnection" includes a service or load limiter or any device that limits or interrupts electric service in any way.

The Military Service Personnel, section 325E.028 of the Public Utilities Act, provides:

Section 1. 325E.028 UTILITY PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR MILITARY SERVICE PERSONNEL.

Subd. 1. Restriction on disconnection; payment schedules. (a) A municipal utility, cooperative electric association, or public utility must not disconnect the utility service of a residential customer if a member of the household has been issued orders into active duty, for deployment, or for a permanent change in duty station during the period of active duty, deployment, or change in duty station if such a residential customer:

(1) has a household income below the state median household income or is receiving energy

assistance and enters into an agreement with the municipal utility, cooperative electric association, or public utility under which the residential customer pays 10% of the customer's gross monthly income toward the customer's bill and the residential customer remains reasonably current with those payments; or

(2) has a household income above the state median household income and enters into an agreement with the municipal utility, cooperative electric association, or public utility establishing a reasonable payment schedule that considers the financial resources of the household and the residential customer remains reasonably current with payments under the payment schedule.

(b) For purposes of this subdivision, "household income" means household income measured after the date of the orders specified in paragraph (a).

Subd. 2. Annual notice to all customers; inability to pay forms. (a) A municipal utility, cooperative electric association, or public utility must notify all residential customers annually of the provisions of this section.

(b) A municipal utility, cooperative electric association, or public utility must provide a form to a residential customer to request the protections of this section upon the residential customer's request.

Subd. 3. Application to service limiters. For the purpose of this section, "disconnection" includes a service or load limiter or any device that limits or interrupts electric service in any way.

Subd. 4. Income verification. Verification of income may be conducted by the local energy assistance provider or the municipal utility, cooperative electric association, or public utility unless the customer is automatically eligible for protection against disconnection as a recipient of any form of public assistance, including energy assistance that uses income eligibility in an amount at or below the income eligibility in subdivision 1, clause (1).

Subd. 5. Appeal process. (a) The municipal utility, cooperative electric association, or public utility shall provide the residential customer with a commission-approved written notice of the right to appeal to the commission or other appropriate governing body when the utility and residential customer are unable to agree on the establishment, reasonableness, or modification

of a payment schedule, or on the reasonable timeliness of the payments under a payment schedule, provided for by this section. Any appeal must be made within seven working days after the residential customer's receipt of personally served notice, or within ten working days after the utility has deposited first class mail notice in the United States mail.

(b) The utility shall not disconnect service while a payment schedule is pending appeal, or until any appeal involving payment schedules has been determined by the commission.

Subd. 6. Enforcement. This section may be enforced pursuant to chapter 216B. The purpose of this notice is to inform you of your rights and responsibilities under section 325E.028, Utility Payment Arrangements for Military Service Personnel. These rights and responsibilities are designed to help you meet payment of your utility bills. You must act PROMPTLY; if you choose not to assert your rights or choose not to enter into a mutually acceptable payment schedule, your service may be disconnected.

Your responsibility is to declare inability to pay by completing our inability to pay form and to return to PKM Electric within 10 days.

Your responsibility to provide documentation to PKM Electric that your household income is less than 50% of the state median level.

You have the right to a mutually acceptable payment schedule with PKM Electric. This payment schedule will cover your existing overdue bill plus your estimated use during the payment schedule period. If you are able to pay but still wish to enter into a payment schedule, contact PKM Electric to make such payment arrangements.

You have the right not to be involuntarily disconnected on a Friday or the day before a holiday.

Your responsibility, if you choose to appeal, is to mail or hand deliver the letter of appeal stating your situation and issues in dispute. Your letter of appeal must be in our hands before the day of disconnection. The PKM Electric Board of Directors will review your appeal after it is received. If you want to be present at the appeal, you must call the cooperative for the date and time of the appeal review.

If you need help paying your electric bill, you may qualify for state or federal fuel assistance. For complete qualifications, applications and information, contact your local county social services or community/citizens action council listed above. These organizations may also provide budget counseling.

Local energy assistance providers

Northwest Community Action	800-568-5329
Tri-Valley	866-264-3729
Marshall County Social Services	218-745-5124
Polk County Social Services	218-281-3127
Kittson County Social Services	218-843-2689

Board meeting highlights *August and September*

A regular meeting of the board was held Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2020.

Mark Hatton, president who presided, asked for roll call. Upon calling the roll, the president reported that all directors were present. Directors Aakre, Woinarowicz, Peterson, Mortenson, Goodwin and Owens participated via phone conference.

Director Woinarowicz presented an update on business before the annual meeting at Minnkota.

Director Aakre reported on his attendance at the Square Butte annual meeting. He gave the board a financial update. After the meeting there was a reorganization meeting.

President Hatton and CEO Mike Schmidt shared information with the board of directors about their Energy Issues Summit and MREA annual meeting.

Line superintendent Joe Marcotte presented the monthly safety and operations report.

The manager of member services provided an update to directors regarding recent activities within his department.

The CFO opened her report with an office update regarding COVID-19. She informed the directors that disconnect letters will be sent for August. However, no late fees are being charged at this time. We continue to put disconnecting accounts on hold due to extension of the peacetime emergency by the governor.

The CFO continued with the presentation of the operating and financial report for the cooperative.

The CEO referenced his submitted written report outlining recent meetings. He also informed the board about the MREA conference call with Rep. Collin Peterson.

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

Second quarter financials were reviewed by the board and found to be an accurate representation of the first-half financial transactions. The board received the financials pending audit.

A resolution was adopted by the PKM Electric Cooperative, Inc. board of directors on Aug. 25, 2020, authorizing certain company officer(s) and/or general manager to sign the RUS Form 595.

The CEO shared information from the recent transformer leak. He praised the lineworkers on their great job and shared a note from Miff with Minnesota Safety. He then continued with informational items on Oneok, CARRS, CLEAN, MN PUC, CHS Plant, a COVID-19 update, PPP participants and Guzman Energy.

The CEO then asked the board if they were interested in a bylaw review. Andrew Sorbo, PKM legal counsel, called into the meeting to discuss and answer any questions the board had on the bylaw review. Following discussion, the board agreed to review and start the process of updating the bylaws at this meeting.

A special meeting of the board was held Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2020.

Mark Hatton, president who presided, asked for roll call. Upon calling the roll, the president reported that all directors were present with the exception of director Owens and Peterson. Directors Aakre, Woinarowicz, Mortenson and Goodwin participated via phone conference.

Director Woinarowicz provided highlights from Minnkota Power Cooperative business activities and requested the CEO provide elaborated details to the directors.

Director Aakre shared highlights from Square Butte with Project Tundra leading the discussion.

Line Superintendent Joe Marcotte presented the monthly safety and operations report, indicating no accidents and no lost time.

The manager of member services reviewed

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

PKM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE POLITICAL LEADERS

Federal Legislators

President Donald Trump

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
www.whitehouse.gov
president@whitehouse.gov
202-456-1111

Senator Tina Smith

309 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
202-224-3244
1-888-224-9043 (Minnesota office)
Fax: 202-228-2186

Congressman Collin Peterson

2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
www.collinpeterson.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
tim.walz@state.mn.us

Senator Mark Johnson

2105 Minnesota Senate Bldg.,
95 University Avenue W.

St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-5782
sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn

Representative Dan Fabian

287 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

Representative Deb Kiel

255 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

items noted in his report, including that Irby had shipped 250 of the meters we were waiting for and the three-phase meters are being shipped back.

The CFO opened her report with an office update to the directors highlighting being back to normal working hours for September. She informed the directors that disconnect letters will be sent for September – however no late fees are being charged at this time. We continue to put disconnecting accounts on hold due to the peacetime emergency being extended by the governor.

The CEO referenced his submitted written report outlining recent meetings and information for discussion at a few upcoming scheduled 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.

Marshall County Area Veterans Memorial Park Inc., is creating a place to celebrate and honor all veterans for Marshall County and the surrounding area. The Veterans Memorial will be a 3,000-square-foot park in the west lawn of the Marshall County Courthouse in Warren. There will be history, recorded interviews with veterans on a TV kiosk, a mural, donor recognition and information about the park in the basement of the Marshall County Courthouse. The board approved a donation to Marshall County Area Contribution in the amount of \$1,000.

The CEO concluded the meeting with miscellaneous information including the CFC Director vote, revolving loan fund plan and looking at revising Policy Bulletin No. 9-6.11.

Trading Post

For Sale

8'x20' portable hunting shack – propane stove, oven and lights, pot burner heater, oak floor, \$500. Contact Jim Batko at 218-695-2576.

Rules

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

PKM Electric will be closed

Wednesday, Nov. 11,

in honor of Veterans Day

– and –

Thursday, Nov. 26,

as we celebrate Thanksgiving

– and –

Friday, Dec. 25,

as we celebrate Christmas.

WHERE YOUR POWER COMES FROM:

- 34% wind
- 8% hydro
- 55% ND lignite coal
- 3% other



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title: PKM News

2. Issue Frequency: Six Times Year

3. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 08/27/2020

4. Issue Number: 417060

5. Annual Subscription Price: Non-Mbr \$2.50/yr

6. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4): PO Box 108 406 N Minnesota Street Warren Marshall MN 56762-0108

7. Complete Mailing Address of General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): PO Box 108 Warren MN 56762-0108

8. Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank): PKM Electric Cooperative Inc. PO Box 108 Warren MN 56762-0108

9. Complete Mailing Address of Owner (Do not leave blank): Cheryl Davey PO Box 108 Warren MN 56762-0108

10. Complete Mailing Address of Complete Mailing Address: Jeff Rostad PO Box 108 Warren MN 56762-0108

11. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of all individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address, as well as that of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

12. Publication Title: PKM Electric Cooperative Inc

13. Issue Frequency: PO Box 108

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 406 N Minnesota Street Warren MN 56762-0108

15. Complete Mailing Address: National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp (CFC) 2201 Cooperative Way Herndon VA 20171-4583

16. Complete Mailing Address: Rural Development Utility Programs 11400 Independence Ave SW Washington DC 20250

17. Complete Mailing Address: CoBank 5500 S Quebec St Greenwood Village CO 80111-1914

16. Publication Title: PKM NEWS

17. Issue Frequency: July/August 2020

18. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: July/August 2020

19. Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank): Newsletter

20. Complete Mailing Address of Complete Mailing Address: Jeff Rostad

21. Complete Mailing Address: PKM Electric Cooperative Inc

22. Issue Frequency: PO Box 108

23. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 406 N Minnesota Street Warren MN 56762-0108

24. Complete Mailing Address: National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp (CFC) 2201 Cooperative Way Herndon VA 20171-4583

25. Complete Mailing Address: Rural Development Utility Programs 11400 Independence Ave SW Washington DC 20250

26. Complete Mailing Address: CoBank 5500 S Quebec St Greenwood Village CO 80111-1914

26. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net after loss)	2489	2497
b. Paid Distribution (By Mail, Outside the Mail, Other Classes of Mail, and Other Classes of Mail)	1326	1334
c. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail, Outside the Mail, Other Classes of Mail, and Other Classes of Mail)	1078	1078
d. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 26b, 26c, and 26d)	2404	2412
e. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Outside County Copies Included on PS Form 3841)		
f. Free or Nominal Rate in County Copies Included on PS Form 3841		
g. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Outside the Mail, Outside the US, or in Free Class Mail)	75	75
h. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 26e, 26f, and 26g)	75	75
i. Total Distribution (Sum of 26d and 26h)	2479	2487
j. Copies Not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers at page K2)	10	10
k. Total (Sum of 26i and 26j)	2489	2497
l. Paid Paid (By Mail, Other Classes of Mail, and Other Classes of Mail)	97	97

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

16. Publication Title: PKM NEWS

17. Issue Frequency: July/August 2020

18. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: July/August 2020

19. Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank): Newsletter

20. Complete Mailing Address of Complete Mailing Address: Jeff Rostad

21. Complete Mailing Address: PKM Electric Cooperative Inc

22. Issue Frequency: PO Box 108

23. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: 406 N Minnesota Street Warren MN 56762-0108

24. Complete Mailing Address: National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp (CFC) 2201 Cooperative Way Herndon VA 20171-4583

25. Complete Mailing Address: Rural Development Utility Programs 11400 Independence Ave SW Washington DC 20250

26. Complete Mailing Address: CoBank 5500 S Quebec St Greenwood Village CO 80111-1914

26. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Distribution (By Mail, Outside the Mail, Other Classes of Mail, and Other Classes of Mail)	1326	1334
b. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail, Outside the Mail, Other Classes of Mail, and Other Classes of Mail)	1078	1078
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 26a, 26b, and 26c)	2404	2412
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Outside County Copies Included on PS Form 3841)		
e. Free or Nominal Rate in County Copies Included on PS Form 3841		
f. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Outside the Mail, Outside the US, or in Free Class Mail)	75	75
g. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 26d, 26e, and 26f)	75	75
h. Total Distribution (Sum of 26c and 26g)	2479	2487
i. Copies Not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers at page K2)	10	10
j. Total (Sum of 26h and 26i)	2489	2497
k. Paid Paid (By Mail, Other Classes of Mail, and Other Classes of Mail)	97	97

27. Signature and Title of Publisher, Editor, or Business Manager: Jeff Rostad, Member Services Manager

28. Date: 8-27-2020



Financial assistance available to help with utility bills

As temperatures decline, the cost of heating starts to increase. During the cold weather months, some PKM Electric Cooperative member-consumers might experience difficulty in paying their electric bills. We know that COVID-19 has created additional financial hardships, placing an even larger burden on families already struggling to pay their bills or bring their accounts current.

If you have a past-due balance with PKM Electric Cooperative, or you are concerned about how to pay for heating costs this winter, there are some new resources available to help those in need.

COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program

A Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funded program, known as the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program (CHAP), allocates \$100 million in Minnesota to cover housing expenses such as rent, mortgage, utilities or other housing-related expenses. Funds are available through Dec. 31, 2020, on a first-come, first-served basis. Eligible utility expenses include gas, electric, water and sewer. Propane is currently ineligible. Only past-due expenses incurred on or after March 1, 2020, and before Dec. 20, 2020, are eligible.

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

- Visit United Way 211 (<http://211unitedway.org>) to access the application for assistance or questions regarding eligibility, or call **800-543-7709** or **2-1-1**.
- General FAQs, including information on income limits and what is covered, can be found at <http://www.mnhousing.gov/sites/np/covid19housingassistanceprogramFAQ>.

Energy Assistance Program

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 50% of the state median income (\$54,357 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2021.

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

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

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule also helps to protect and reconnect residential heat from Oct. 15 through April 15.

*PKM Electric Cooperative exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact Jeremy Treitline at **218-745-4711** to set up a Cold Weather Rule payment plan.*