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PKM Electric went on a co-op power plant tour to the Milton R. Young Station near Center, N.D., with a group of students from Karlstad, Hallock and Lancaster. They learned about where the energy they rely on every day comes from and what it takes to be able to deliver reliable energy to their homes.



***Powering our communities with reliable,
affordable and responsible energy***



CEO Report

JEFF RUSTAD
CEO
PKM Electric Co-op

I want to thank all the members that came to the PKM annual meeting this year. Even though we had to postpone the meeting because of the weather and move it to a different facility, we had a larger turnout than 2022. Congratulations to all the prize winners – a list is included in this issue. Also, congratulations to all our scholarship winners, as we gave out 14 \$1,000 scholarships this year. Thanks to the PKM members that are subscribed to Operation Round Up, which rounds up your electric bill to nearest dollar amount to be added into a fund we use for the scholarships every year. We will have a list of the winners and where they are going to school in the next issue.

The last few weeks the crews have been busy running to respond to outages due to equipment contacting the power line or pulling lines down. We also had someone raise a truck box into the line and did not notice it until he walked to the tractor. These situations could be fatal. If you are tangled in the line, never leave the equipment until PKM is on site and confirms the power is off. If you see a line down, possibly crossing a road or ditch, do not touch it. Call us

and our crews will verify it is safe to move or repair. If you are burning ditches or field stubble, be aware of our highline poles or cabinets in the area. The cost to replace equipment is very expensive and may also be hard to get. Even if you only scorch the bottom of the pole, it loses some of its strength. We just had a pole completely burned down (Teien township, Sec. 17), with the crossarm and wires hanging about 4 feet off the ground. At this time, we are not sure what (or who) started the fire.

PKM currently has Allegiant Utility Services changing meters on the Radium and Strandquist substations. We are converting our power line carrier meters to radio frequency meters. We have received all our underground cable we ordered and the guys are working on getting it in the ground. If you are adding or upgrading any services, please let Joe Marcotte know in the line department to make sure we have what we need to complete the work. We are still seeing delays in materials and the price of material has doubled or tripled in some cases.

EPA's new proposal to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions for the power sector was just announced along with Minnesota's carbon-free electricity by 2040 mandate. We're unsure of how meeting these goals will be possible at this time, and

they just expect that we will figure it out. It's hard to know what officials were thinking, when nine states experienced rolling blackouts just last year. There are many different technologies and infrastructure upgrades that will help with this, but it will all come at a cost and will take years to implement. Our nation's demand for electricity is not going down, and batteries and hydrogen still need more development.

PKM has submitted a couple projects for funding consideration through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Around \$550 billion was made available for new investments in multiple areas including power and energy. We should find out this fall if they are accepted, and then PKM will have until 2026 to complete these projects.

Our off-peak rate is still very competitive or even cheaper than propane (5.4 cents same as \$1.40 propane), and we also have HVAC rebates available and interest-free loans to install. Forms are available on our website under Member Services. A reminder to look at your outside condenser on your A/C or heat pump and make sure it is clean – these temps are very hard on them and will cost you more money to run if they are dirty. If you have any questions, please call our office at 218-745-4711 or email at info@pkmcoop.com.



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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
website: 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 C.J. Peterson
Secretary-Treasurer Wayne Malm
Directors Paul Aakre, Jerred Copp, Steve Goodwin,
Chris Mortenson, Blake Owens, and Tom Woinarowicz
CEO Jeff Rustad
Editors Danny Schmidt, Megan Dagoberg

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

ELECTRIFY YOUR OUTDOOR SUMMER ADVENTURES

Summer seems to disappear in the blink of an eye – so make sure you get out and enjoy it while you can! There is no better time than now to do the things you dreamed about all winter long, like biking along the lake shore, camping under the stars, and even taking up hiking as a hobby. All these dreams can be made a bit easier with just a little electricity.

This summer, electrify your outdoor adventures with the help of some essential and versatile electric tools. From electric bikes to portable power stations, get ready to take on the great outdoors with ease.

ELECTRIC BIKE

Summertime bike rides just got supercharged thanks to electric bikes — or e-bikes. E-bikes are equipped with an electric bike motor that can assist you when you are pedaling. You can determine how much assistance you would like and can adjust while you are cruising around town. Some newer e-bike models can even reach speeds up to 28 miles per hour! Imagine how far you can go with an electric-powered bike.



PORTABLE POWER STATION

Whether you are hiking along a miles-long trail or streaming a movie under the stars, keep your phone or other small appliance charged. Portable power station systems can safely and quietly power your electrical devices, like your phone or lanterns, so you never miss capturing a single memory. Some portable power station models can even be charged with solar power! You can charge all day while out exploring and come back to a fully charged station.



ELECTRIC GRILL

No summer is complete without a cookout. Electric grills come in all shapes and sizes – from mini camping grills to larger units made to feed a family gathering. Electric grills are easy to use, provide consistent heat and are much cleaner than other options for your next backyard barbeque or trip to the lake.



BATTERY-POWERED ESSENTIALS

Rechargeable electric radios and flashlights are essential when it comes to summer-night campouts. Use the battery-powered radio to jam to tunes all night long or listen to weather forecasts in areas with poor cell reception. And don't even think of heading to the bathroom at night without your handy-dandy flashlight. These electrified tools are key for staying safe and sound this summer.

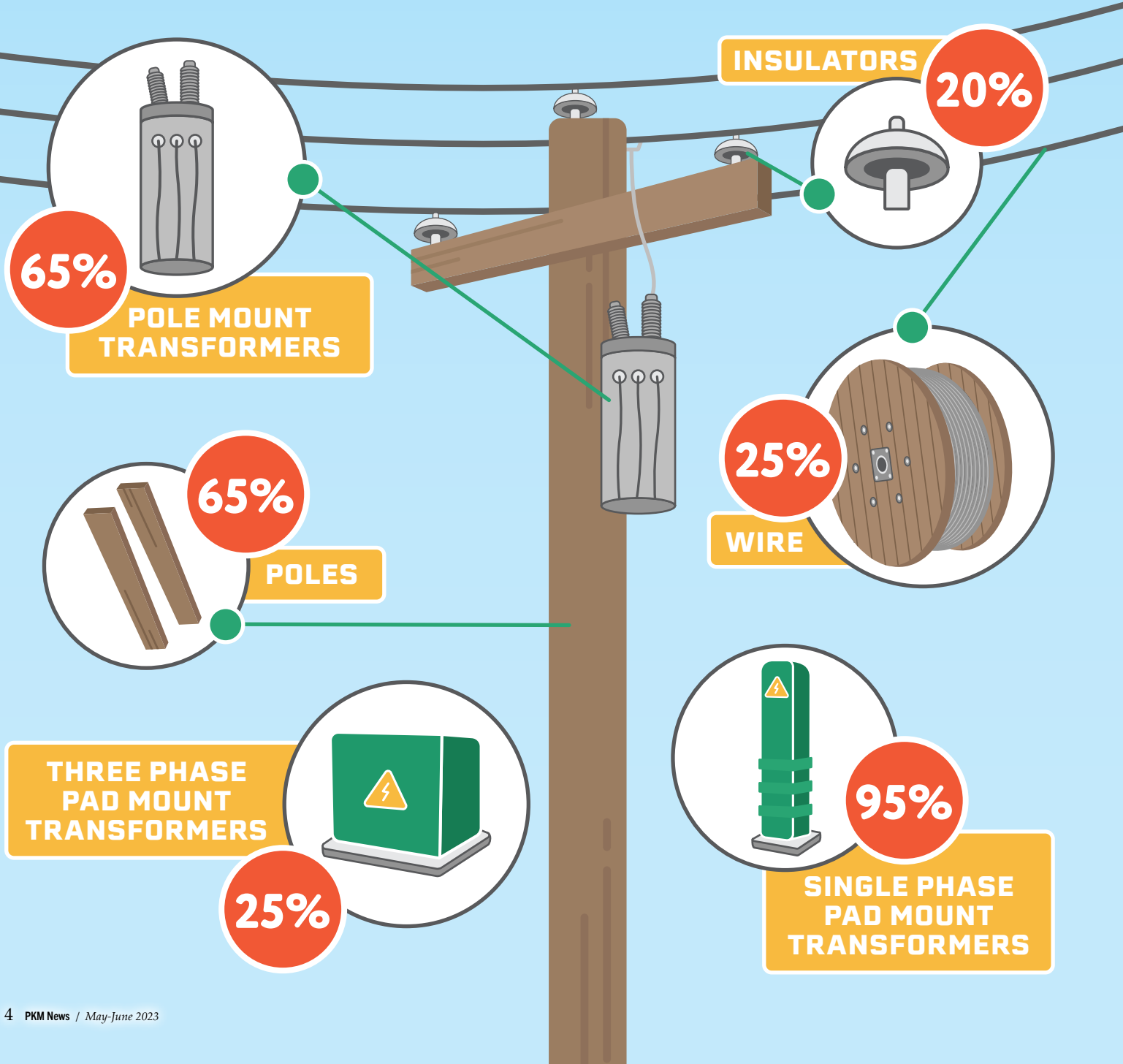


THE RISING COST OF ELECTRIC UTILITY MATERIALS

As inflation has increased the cost of many goods and services in our daily lives, your electric cooperative remains focused on keeping your rates as stable as possible. That job is becoming more challenging as electric utility material prices have increased in an unprecedented manner over the last two years.

Many of the cost increases being experienced cannot be avoided or easily cut out. We must continue to invest in utility poles, transformers, wire and insulators to ensure you receive reliable service. The graphic below shows some of the core components that your electric cooperative needs to operate and the corresponding price increases since 2020. As always, your cooperative will continue to manage costs to the best of its ability and work to ensure you receive the best possible value for your energy dollar.

Disclaimer: Material price increase numbers represent recent averages in our region. Material prices can and do fluctuate.



5 things about the NEW ALL-ELECTRIC

F-150 LIGHTNING



Forget everything you think you know about electric vehicles. The all-electric Ford F-150 Lightning offers lightning-quick acceleration, advanced driver technology and added power from bumper to bumper. Check out what makes this powerful EV a fan favorite.

Impressive range

This powerhouse truck has an EPA-estimated range of 230 miles with the standard-range battery package.

Welcome to the frunkgate

This all-electric pickup has enough room in its front storage compartment – the frunk – to host the perfect “frunkgate party.”

Need for speed

This F-150 is one of the fastest pickup trucks in production – 0 to 60 miles per hour in an average of four seconds.

Powerful performance

With a max towing capacity of 10,000 pounds and a max payload of 1,952 pounds, you can haul your favorite recreational vehicles.

Incentives for charger install

Contact PKM Electric Cooperative today to learn about low-cost off-peak electric vehicle charging in your home or business.

PKM Electric offers great incentives for mini-split heat pumps

MINI IS MIGHTY!

Don't let the summer heat keep you from being the coolest house on the block – temperature-wise, that is! Invest in a mini-split heat pump to help keep costs down while offering additional support to your existing heating and cooling system. The size may be mini, but the advantages are mighty.

- 1 Mini-splits are often much quieter than central air or furnaces.
- 2 You control the unit using a remote or setting it to auto.
- 3 You don't need any existing ductwork to install one.
- 4 The units run on less power than forced-air systems.

- 5 Mini-splits are discreet and can blend into their surroundings.
- 6 Units may qualify for your co-op's off-peak electric rate.
- 7 You can save big with rebates of \$150 per ton!



Contact your co-op energy experts and learn more about investing in a mini-split heat pump!

6 things you might not know about coal mining



Baseload generation plays a vital role in the diverse energy portfolio needed to supply PKM Electric members with safe, reliable and affordable energy. Minnkota's Milton R. Young Station is a mine-mouth generation facility that is powered by the abundant supply of lignite coal mined in western North Dakota. There are many misconceptions about coal, so here are a few North Dakota mining facts that may be new to you.

1.

Before mining takes place in North Dakota, extensive geological surveys, drilling and sampling must take place to determine the quality and quantity of coal deposits in an area. By understanding the geology of the area, efficient and cost-effective mining plans are developed to maximize coal recovery while minimizing environmental impacts.

2.

Coal mining has a significant impact on the local economy. It provides jobs for thousands of people in North Dakota and contributes to the overall energy production of the United States. The lignite energy industry also supports other crucial occupations such as transportation, manufacturing and construction.

3.

Open-pit mining is used to remove layers of soil and rock to expose the coal seams. Large machinery, such as draglines and bucket wheel excavators, are used to extract the coal from the open pits and transport it to the Young Station.

4.

BNI Coal, Minnkota's lignite coal provider, recently commissioned the world's newest 757 dragline to its fleet in 2022. Named Legacy, it operates alongside two other draglines in Center, N.D. – Liberty and Big Sandy. Draglines operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and can weigh more than 6,000 tons.

5.

Raw lignite coal undergoes various processes to remove impurities and prepare it for use at the Young Station. This can include crushing, screening, washing and sorting the coal to meet specific quality requirements.

6.

Once mining activities are completed in a specific area, the land is reclaimed and restored to its natural state – or better. This involves leveling the land to allow for proper water drainage, replacing topsoil, and reestablishing native vegetation to promote ecological recovery. Ongoing monitoring and maintenance are conducted to ensure success of the reclamation efforts.

All Tech on Deck

Energy transition requires embracing all solutions

As calls to move toward a carbon-free electric grid continue to grow, the utility industry is faced with one of the most significant challenges in its history. PKM Electric Cooperative continues to advocate for a commonsense approach in making this transition that ensures reliable service to our members and affordable prices for homes, farms, schools and businesses. As this transition moves ahead, it will require many different resources and technology breakthroughs – maybe even some that haven't been thought of yet. Each utility must take its own path forward and cannot pursue all options at one time.

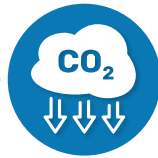
Perhaps most importantly, this energy transition will require collaboration between utilities, states, policymakers, regulators and other key stakeholders on a scale never seen before. Considering the magnitude of the task at hand, it's important to keep all tech on deck.



WILL THE NATION'S ELECTRIC GRID NEED RENEWABLE RESOURCES?

YES!

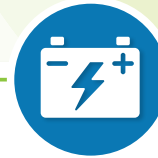
Wind and solar are among the fastest growing resources on America's electric grid. Minnkota Power Cooperative, your electric cooperative's wholesale power provider, already receives 34% of its generation capacity from wind (along with another 8% from hydro). As renewable resources continue to expand in the years ahead, it's important that these resources are supported by a strong supply of baseload resources that can operate when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining.



WILL THE NATION'S ELECTRIC GRID NEED CARBON CAPTURE TECHNOLOGY?

YES!

To maintain the reliability of America's electric grid, coal and natural gas will need to be used for the foreseeable future. Carbon capture technology is rapidly advancing to significantly lower CO₂ emissions from these resources. In fact, Minnkota is currently evaluating Project Tundra, which would equip the Milton R. Young Station with innovative technologies to capture and store carbon emissions from the coal-based power plant – a key resource in meeting your 24/7 energy needs.



WILL THE NATION'S ELECTRIC GRID NEED BATTERY STORAGE TECHNOLOGY?

YES!

Battery storage is important to a carbon-free grid because it can provide energy when the sun isn't shining or the wind isn't blowing. This is because battery storage systems can store excess energy generated during periods of high production and then release it during periods of low production. Current lithium-ion technology only provides for 2-4 hours of discharge from the battery. That will need to increase to multiple days for battery storage to begin making a significant impact.



WILL THE NATION'S ELECTRIC GRID NEED NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS?

YES!

Nuclear power plants provide reliable, carbon-free electricity to America's electric grid. Technological advancements have been made to improve safety, efficiency and waste management. Additionally, new reactor designs like small modular reactors are being developed that are smaller, cheaper and safer than traditional large-scale reactors.



WILL THE GRID NEED MORE TRANSMISSION LINES?

YES!

There's no energy transition without transmission. Billions of dollars in new power line development and other grid upgrades are planned across the Upper Midwest over the next decade. That's only scratching the surface. Significant modernization of the electric grid will be needed to support the expansion of renewable resources and other technologies.

DON'T GET **BURNED** ON SOLAR SCAMS

PKM Electric Cooperative supports making electricity more environmentally responsible while keeping power reliable and affordable for our members. However, we've been alerted that some deceptive companies are beginning to take advantage of our members' growing commitment to going "green." Many are offering too-good-to-be-true solar panel systems that may leave you in debt – and in the dark.

Not all solar companies are out to scam you, but be on the lookout for these signs that a crook may be afoot.

SOLAR BURNS



Dishonest leases can be disguised as great financing options for new solar panels for your home. A scammer may lull you into thinking you own the panels and thus may collect incentives offered by buying panels. However, if you don't outright own the panels, you can't collect incentives or rebates – and the value of the panels is not added to your home.



If you encounter a **pushy solar salesperson** who isn't answering your questions clearly, you should take pause. These people may be looking for a sale whether or not solar is right for your particular situation. If they try to force a deal without an onsite inspection or a contract, just say no.



Tax incentives for solar installation are somewhat complicated, and some **unreputable companies may try to take advantage of your tax credit confusion**. Before speaking with a solar company, make sure you research your eligibility for solar tax credits and other programs, both federal and local.



Some **fraudulent companies will try to resemble utility representatives** and contact homeowners by phone, email, or even door-to-door. These salespeople may spout exciting claims that you can get rid of your electric bill entirely or that you will soon miss the boat on important federal tax incentives.



Be wary of any online ads, social media links or emails that tout free or zero-dollars-down solar panels. These are usually scams. Always go through a company's official website to schedule an in-person meeting and solar evaluation.

PROTECT YOURSELF



Contact your co-op in the early stages of any solar panel planning – our experts will help you determine if solar interconnection is right for you.



Do your research on available incentives and tax credits (and if you qualify).



Get a few in-person site evaluations and quotes before signing any contract.



Read online reviews of solar companies, including from the Better Business Bureau.



If your gut says something is wrong with a company, trust that feeling.

5 THINGS TO KNOW

about our wind energy

June 15 is Global Wind Day! PKM Electric celebrated this key renewable resource by reflecting on why wind energy is so important to our diverse power portfolio. Here are some numbers you should know.

*1. We were among the **FIRST** in the wind sphere.*

Minnkota Power Cooperative's system of members, including PKM Electric Cooperative, is acknowledged as a regional leader for building the first two commercial-scale, utility-owned wind turbines in North Dakota in 2002. This leadership was recognized by the Department of Energy.

*2. Our cooperative system uses energy from **FIVE** wind centers.*

Minnkota (our wholesale power provider) owns two separate wind turbines near the towns of Petersburg and Valley City, N.D., and holds purchased power agreements for energy produced at three wind farms near Langdon, Valley City and Center, N.D.

*3. More than **ONE-THIRD** of our power capacity is wind.*

Wind makes up 34% of our system's generation capacity. Around 56% of our capacity comes from coal at the Milton R. Young Station near Center, N.D., and another 8% comes from hydropower at North Dakota's Garrison Dam. The final 2% comes from the power market and other sources.

*4. About **459** megawatts of wind capacity is available in our system.*

We never expect wind to be blowing at all times at every one of our wind facilities, so actual electricity output at any particular time can vary dramatically. However, 459 MW is enough to power more than 225,000 homes if every turbine were to hit its peak capacity.

*5. Receive up to **100%** wind energy from Infinity Renewable Energy.*

Members who enroll in the Infinity program can choose a designated percentage of electricity used that they would like to be derived from renewable resources. Renewable energy credits (RECs) are retired on the participants' behalf as record/proof of the purchase. Contact PKM to see how you can get involved!



2023 ANNUAL MEETING PRIZE WINNERS

Winner

1. Theresa Nelson
2. Don Taus
3. Bill Dykhuis
4. Duane Potucek
5. Roger Loer
6. Carl Hugg
7. Keith Britten
8. Shawn Bubb
9. Delbert Vonasek
10. George Owens
11. Keith Britten
12. Rick Schmiedberg
13. Carol Mortenson
14. John Schmidt

Prize

- Energy Certificate - \$25
First-Aid Kit
PKM Thermos
Scheels Gift Card - \$25
Energy Certificate - \$25
Scheels Gift Card - \$50
Compact Multi Cooker
Water Smoker
Grill Set & Schneider Lawn Chair
Klein Tool Bag
PKM Goody Bag
Round Tabletop Grill
Scheels Gift Card - \$25
Soup & Mugs

Winner

15. Rovella Weiland
16. James Wallenberg
17. Dennis Hahn
18. Palmer Rud
19. Jay Johnston
20. Rolland Deschene
21. Robert Broten

Prize

- Popcorn Machine
Makita Cooler
First-Aid Kit
Round Tabletop Grill
PKM Goody Bag
American Express Gift Card - \$50 & Pocket Knife
Klein Bluetooth Speaker

Grand Prize:

Lance Loer \$500 Energy Credit

Kids Prizes:

Luke Crummy \$200 Visa Gift Card
Nick Bergman \$100 Visa Gift Card



Keep your FAMILY SAFE,
know what's below!

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 call811.com
for more
information.



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

Electrical Inspectors

**Marshall and
Kittson Counties**

Ronald Ditsch:
218-779-6758

**Polk
County**

George Stage:
218-284-1083

PKM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE POLITICAL LEADERS

Federal Legislators

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

Senator Amy Klobuchar
425 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.klobuchar.senate.gov
202-224-3244; Fax: 202-228-2186

Senator Tina Smith
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
www.smith.senate.gov
Phone: 202-224-5641

**Congresswoman Michelle
Fischbach, U.S. House (7th
District)**
1004 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
www.fischbach.house.gov
202-225-2165; Fax: 202-225-1593

State of Minnesota Legislators

Governor Tim Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther
King Jr. Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-201-3400
800-657-3717
www.mn.gov/governor

**Minority Leader
Senator Mark Johnson (01, R)**
2401 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-5782
sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn
www.senate.mn/members

Representative John Burkel (01A, R)
309 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-9635
rep.john.burkel@house.mn.gov

**Representative Deb Kiel
(01B, R)**
203 State Office
Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-5091
800-339-9041
rep.deb.kiel@house.mn.gov

Board meeting **highlights** *January, February and March*

A regular meeting of the board was held Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023.

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

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. MREA presented on tree trimming. The crews are going to start line patrol with this cold weather. Marcotte brought attention to the 2022 Field Report, URD Report, 5-year Outage Report and the 2022 Gopher Bounty Report included in the packet and responded to questions received from the directors. There was a decision by directors to raise the gopher bounty from \$0.25 per gopher to a \$1.00 per gopher next year. Also included in his report were the RAM pole inspection results and an employee update in Hallock.

The new manager of member services, Danny Schmidt, shared activities within his department and introduced himself. He attended the REMA meeting and shared information he learned there. He is currently working on getting all RF meters reading in at 15-minutes load profile.

The CFO opened her administrative report with an office update. The office is in full swing of year-end activities. PKM's audit is scheduled for the fourth week in March and employees are busy getting everything the audit team needs.

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 are stellar for 2022 and expenses stayed well under budget. The current equity ratio is up from last year at 57.9%.

The CEO referenced his written report outlining recent meetings. He shared that he had a couple meetings with Eaton, AT&T and Verizon.

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, 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 receive the fourth quarter financials.

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 president stated it is necessary for the board to review and determine the disposition of the non-operating margin.

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 \$970.98. The CEO reminded the board that this does not end the collection process and that these accounts are turned over to a collection agency. The recovery process has been successful over the years.

The discussion turned to the desirability of making a general retirement. The financial policy sets a goal of a 25-year rotation. Due to the weather, maintaining a steady margin is challenging. The capital credit pay-out method was discussed. A resolution was offered to retire the 1998 and 1999 member capital totaling \$380,567.64.

The CEO stated that in accordance with the bylaws it would be appropriate for the board of directors to appoint a nominating committee to meet prior to the annual meeting for the purpose of nominating candidates to the board of directors. The board of directors caucused, and with completion of their caucus, selected members. Those members appointed will receive mileage and a fee for their attendance. The members to act as the committee are: Glenn Barrett, Warren; Brian Kasprick, Angus; Jim Folz, Warren; Tom Miesner, Lancaster; Steven Sjostrand, Lancaster; Joey Wilebski, Lancaster; Ron Iverson, Alvarado; Pat Osowski, Alvarado; Stuart Nordling, Warren.

After submission to RUS on all the forms, they requested we

fix the eAuth Login ID, RUS requires the following to be updated 674 and RD Apply.

The CEO concluded the meeting with miscellaneous information for the directors including information 2022 year-end work comp retention, financials were provided for Carr's Tree Service, a letter from the State of North Dakota, Minnkota Power contract update was discussed, CoBank 2023 director election and IJJA grant.

A regular meeting of the board was held Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023.

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

CEO Jeff Rustad gave an update in place of Director Woinarowicz regarding business at Minnkota Power Cooperative. Director Aakre shared an update with the directors regarding business at Square Butte Electric Cooperative.

The operations manager presented the monthly safety and operations report, indicating no accidents and no lost time. The crews are busy with line patrol and inventory. Marcotte shared updates from his MREA operations meeting and his tour of Durham.

The manager of member services shared activities within his department. He shared a member bought a Chevy Bolt and installed a Level 2 charger on our EV demand. Minnkota launched the Value of Electricity program, which now allows all the member cooperatives to enter in rebate forms online. The industrial arts kids from Hallock, Karlstad and Lancaster are going on a bus tour of the coal plant, coal mine and EERC.

The CFO opened her administrative report with an office update. The office has been busy submitting all the information for the audit to Brady Martz. There has been a lot of progress on our REAP LED lighting grant with the contractors completing a large number of light conversions. Disconnects for nonpayment will start again in April and the office has been busy contacting members with larger past due balances. PKM had their annual review with Chad from Federated and we had a fantastic review. Olson has been working on filing several annual reports, including RUS Form 7.

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. She shared revenue was under budget for the month by \$214,810.44. The current tier data is down from last year at 4.36 and the equity ratio is up from last year at 58.4%.

The CEO referenced his submitted written report outlining the recent meetings he attended during the month of February. Rustad shared highlights from the REPAC meeting he attended.

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 nomination of the PKM Electric Cooperative, Inc. directors to serve on the Minnkota Power Cooperative and Square Butte Electrical Cooperative board of directors respectively were the next items of discussion. Following discussion, it was decided to leave the current nominations in place.

The policy bulletin 1-4.10: Employee Retirement & Insurance Benefits for Group 24-087 (Non-Union) & Group 24-508 (Union) was presented for discussion. The current and recommended changes were discussed and passed.

The president informed the directors it is necessary to review the delegate to represent PKM Electric Cooperative, Inc. as a CRC voting delegate for 2023. After discussion, it was decided to change the voting delegate to Mark Hatton with the alternate Wayne Malm, the same as the year prior.

The CEO shared miscellaneous information with the directors including CoBank permissions, CARRS financial update, NCSC request for candidates, 22-589 service territory map revisions and planning meeting ideas.

A regular meeting of the board was held Tuesday, Mar. 28, 2023.

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 Cooperative and Square Butte Electric Cooperative.

Director Aakre shared highlights from the PowerXchange conference in Nashville, Tennessee. Director Owens also shared highlights from the Wild Rice annual meeting he attended.

Line Superintendent Joe Marcotte presented the monthly safety and operations report, indicating no accidents and no lost time. The crews have been busy with maintenance on overhead.

The manager of member services shared activities within his department. He gave an update on food, presenters and activities he has planned for the annual meeting in April. Larry from Fault Finders was here last week and we have all the faulted cables fixed that have been called in to us.

The CFO shared with the directors the annual audit was being wrapped up with Brady Martz. Other happenings in the office are the capital credit process has been started, accepting scholarships applications and report filing. Delinquent account notices have been mailed to members with disconnections for nonpayment scheduled beginning of May. They have been working on payments with those members.

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 was down from the year before; we are down about 6% from 2022. Expenses are under budget by 11%.

The CEO referenced his submitted written report. He shared about the nominating committee meeting; everyone was present at the meeting and had lots of good questions. A few other highlights from his report included ethanol fuel cell, renewables, solar and union negotiations date.

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 CFO, Karen Olson, presented the 2022 RUS Financials and Operating Report Form 7 to the directors. The first two pages are included in the monthly board packet; therefore, she reviewed the remaining pages in depth with the directors as this information is reported annually to RUS, CoBank, CFC and Minnkota.

The CEO shared miscellaneous information with the directors including inventory reconciliation, the 2022 safety and loss analysis report, discussion on Union wage, and the 2022 emissions attribution.

The meeting concluded with Carr's financials. Upon motion duly made by Director Owens, seconded by Director Malm and unanimously carried, an executive session was called. The president returned the meeting to regular order concluding the executive session at 2:18 p.m.

Save money with off-peak

Propane prices remain high. Did you know you could save on winter costs by incorporating off-peak electric into your heating system?



TAKE A LOOK!

- Off-peak resistance electric heat at 5.4¢/kWh* is equal to paying \$1.40 for a gallon of propane.
- An even more efficient off-peak air-source heat pump at 5.4¢/kWh* is equal to paying 75¢ for a gallon of propane – and that's a steal.

The savings add up fast! Call PKM Electric for more information on our voluntary off-peak program.
*plus wind surcharge

What's that in my yard?

If you're a homeowner, you likely have at least one form of utility electrical equipment somewhere in your yard. You should know how to care for the areas around equipment to ensure it remains reliable, safe and easily accessible.

Electric meter

What it does: An electric meter calculates your home's electricity consumption in kilowatt-hours. They are typically found on the side or back of a home. Although many modern electric meters take automated readings, it's still important to keep the equipment accessible to crews and first responders.

What you can do: Make sure shrubs and plants are trimmed (or removed) to allow a 3-foot access radius around the meter. Ensure that locked fences or animals don't obstruct emergency access.

Power pole

What it does: These tall poles are the infrastructure that keep overhead power lines safely out of reach. You will more likely have a power pole on your property if you are a rural member, but poles can be found within the city as well.

What you can do: Never attach anything to a power pole with nails, staples or even tape. Unauthorized attachments to poles could injure co-op employees or damage the pole's ground wire.

Pole transformer

What it does: These high-mounted transformers convert the overhead line's higher-voltage power to a usable lower voltage. Pole transformers are usually found near rural homes.

What you can do: Simply stay away from it! Avoid using extended tools or aerial equipment like drones around ANY power pole.

Utility pedestal

What it does: The utility pedestal may look like a pad-mounted transformer, but much smaller. This piece of equipment is seen more regularly in neighborhood yards, serving as a junction point to send the transformer's stepped down electricity to each home.

What you can do: Keep 3 feet of clearance on every side of the pedestal.

Pad-mounted transformer

What it does: This is a distribution transformer housed in a safe metal cabinet, usually 4 feet by 4 feet and sitting on a small concrete slab. They are connected to underground lines and step down high-voltage power to supply residences. One transformer can serve many homes.

What you can do: Be sure you have 10 feet of clearance in front of the transformer (where the lock is), as well as 3 feet on all other sides. This means no plants, fences or other obstructions within that area.

