STAY SAFE THIS HARVEST SEASON

Harvest season brings hard work and can be an exhausting, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous (even deadly!) when working near overhead power lines. We urge farm operators and workers to keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Use care when operating large machinery near power lines.
- Inspect the height of equipment to determine clearance.
- Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away (in all directions) from power lines.
- Remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
- If a power line is sagging or looks to be dangerously low, please call us immediately.
Summer is almost gone, and I hope everyone has had a chance to enjoy some of the beautiful weather we have had. This past week I was at the MREA Energy Issues Summit, which is held annually. Many topics are round issues that will affect you and your electric cooperative. Impacts of cannabis, paid family leave, electric vehicles, and – no surprise – resource planning for how we get to carbon free by 2040. For our power generation and transmission provider, Minnkota Power Cooperative, this remains a priority for them and the membership. In this issue we have an article about Project Tundra. If this happens, it will go a long way to getting us to the goal made by our elected officials. And Minnkota already has enough wind and hydro generation to meet part of this goal. If you are interested in staying informed with the issues impacting your cooperative and transmission provider, Minnkota Power Cooperative, this remains a priority for them and the membership.

Jeff Rustad
PKM Electric Co-op

Congratulations
Class of 2023 PKM scholarship recipients!

Each year, PKM Electric Cooperative provides scholarships for graduating seniors at each of the high schools operating throughout the cooperative’s service area. These scholarships are made possible by funding from Operation Round Up®. Congratulations and best wishes to these scholarship recipients!

Aiden Anderson
Argyle
Stephen-Angyle

Lydia Floden
Euclid
East Grand Forks

Ethan Hanson
Hollock
Kittson Central

Alda Johnson
Hollock
Kittson Central

Jaxon Klegstad
Hallock
Tri-County

Claire McGlynn
Stephen
Stephen-Angyle

William McGlynn
Stephen
Stephen-Angyle

Paige Michalski
Warren
Warren-Alvarado-Oslo

Kylie Nelson
Warren
Warren-Alvarado-Oslo

Hayden Olsonawski
Hollock
Kittson Central

Isabel Pearson
Strandquist
Tri-County

Brandon Ristad
Hollock
Kittson Central

Nathan Sedlacek
Warren
Warren-Alvarado-Oslo

Austin Wittman
Warren
Warren-Alvarado-Oslo
New relationships with TC Energy, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Kiewit position the project for a final investment decision in early 2024

By Ben Fladhammer /// Photography Michael Hoeft – Minnkota Power Cooperative

Minnkota Power Cooperative, PKM’s wholesale power provider, announced agreements on June 28 with TC Energy, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries America (MHIA), and Kiewit moving Project Tundra into its final stage of development. The joint effort combines decades of energy industry expertise and strengthens the strategic vision to build one of the world’s largest carbon capture projects in North Dakota.

Under the arrangements, Minnkota will continue to lead project development activities at the Milton R. Young Station power plant, as well as coordination with landowners and community members in the project area near Center, N.D. “If our organizations are successful in making this historic project a reality, Minnkota will be one of the fastest decarbonizing utilities in the country while maintaining stable electric rates and a reliable, resilient power supply,” said Mac McLennan, Minnkota President and CEO. “By working together, we aim to advance carbon capture technology in a way that can serve as a blueprint for our state, nation and world to meet ambitious decarbonization goals.”

TC Energy will lead commercialization activities, including qualifying for federal 45Q tax credits. Return on project construction and operation costs would be recouped through 45Q, which provides $85 per ton of carbon dioxide (CO₂) permanently stored underground.

In addition, the project participants submitted an application in May for a $350 million grant through the U.S. Department of Energy’s Carbon Capture Demonstration Projects Program. The project also has $250 million in low-interest loans approved through the state of North Dakota’s Clean Sustainable Energy Authority (CSEA).

“Today’s announcement is a powerful example of private industry and cooperative utilities collaborating to bring scaled change to the energy transition,” said Corey Hessen, Executive Vice President and President, Power and Energy Solutions, at TC Energy. “With Minnkota, Mitsubishi and Kiewit we will combine our respective capabilities to deliver a de-risked commercial and technical solution. This ambitious carbon capture and sequestration project will enable the Young Station to provide power for decades to come…safely, reliably and with a significantly lower emissions profile.”

MHIA is the lead technology provider for the project and has successfully deployed more than a dozen commercial CO₂ capture projects globally since 1999. MHIA is committed to building an innovative solutions ecosystem to realize a carbon-neutral future and achieve its net-zero ambitions within its own operations by 2040. The project will adopt MHIA’s CO₂ capture technology “Advanced KM CDR Process™” with new solvent “KS-21™.” MHIA will collaborate on the CO₂ capture facility with Kiewit, who will construct the project.
“Project Tundra represents an important step in the scale up of carbon capture technology, which will play an important role in realizing a carbon neutral society,” said Takajiro Ishikawa, President and CEO of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries America, Inc. “Partnerships between policy and business are critical to our success in decarbonizing and we are excited to be part of this group of energy leaders to bring Project Tundra to life.”

“Six years ago, Kiewit and MHIA worked together on the first commercial-scale postcombustion carbon capture project in the U.S., which was delivered on time and on budget. Today, we have the opportunity to build on that legacy and deliver one of the largest carbon capture projects in the world,” said Dave Claggett, senior vice president at Kiewit Energy Group, Inc. “We are proud to be a part of Project Tundra and to support North Dakota’s decarbonization efforts.”

Project Tundra is designed to capture up to 4 million metric tons of CO2 annually from the coal-based Young Station. The CO2 will be safely and permanently stored more than a mile underground in deep geologic formations. Minnkota currently has the largest fully permitted CO2 storage facility in the United States and is pursuing additional CO2 storage opportunities near the Young Station.

“Our industry-leading team has guided this project through a global pandemic, record inflation and unprecedented supply chain constraints,” McLennan said. “Through those challenges, we have received outstanding support from the community of Center, Oliver County, and the state of North Dakota. None of this would be possible without their commitment and vision.”

Throughout the research and development phases of Project Tundra, both state and federal leaders have played a crucial role in supporting and guiding the project.

“Bringing together the considerable expertise and resources of these industry leaders is a huge momentum boost for the project and bodes well for its future,” North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum said. “The pursuit of innovation over regulation continues to be a catalyst for capital investment in North Dakota. This project is a shining example of how industries are working together to decarbonize and create good-paying jobs and economic growth in a manner that supports our state’s industries, which provide thousands of well-paying jobs, and on budget. Today, we have received outstanding support from the community of Center, Oliver County, and the state of North Dakota. None of this would be possible without their commitment and vision.”

“Today’s announcement from Minnkota on Project Tundra is another exciting step toward scaling up carbon capture in North Dakota,” said Sen. Kevin Cramer. “Congratulations to Minnkota, TC Energy, Mitsubishi, Kiewit, and its affiliate team on their partnership and moving to the final stage of development. I look forward to North Dakota’s historic and continued leadership in CCUS technology.”

“North Dakota is at the forefront of carbon capture technology,” said Rep. Kelly Armstrong. “It’s hard to think of a project that’s a better example of this than Project Tundra. I’m glad to see it move forward in our goal of making sure our state’s abundant resources continue to be utilized for generations to come.”

Closings on financing and the notice to move forward with construction of Project Tundra are anticipated in early 2024. The project remains subject to closing on financing and a final investment decision by each of the project entities in the consortium.

“Kiewit is one of North America’s largest and most respected construction and engineering organizations. With its roots dating back to 1884, the employee-owned organization operates through a network of subsidiaries in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Kiewit offers construction and engineering services in a variety of markets including transportation; oil, gas and chemical; power; building; water; industrial; and mining. Kiewit had 2022 revenues of $13.7 billion and employs 25,700 staff and craft employees.”
DOES SOLAR SUIT YOUR ENERGY GOALS?

It’s not unusual to see advertisements for solar panel installation, some of which promise to slash your expenses and reduce your dependence on the electrical grid. Although PKM Electric Cooperative supports renewable generation as part of an all-of-the-above energy mix, we want members to be aware that solar energy ownership requires a lot of forethought, and it may take decades to realize many of the benefits.

We have broken down the top four distributed energy resources (DER) goals we hear from our members and have assessed if grid-interconnected solar would help meet these goals.

Before you contact a solar vendor, please call your co-op to discuss the interconnection process and weigh the benefits and financial impacts. We have energy experts on staff to help you assess this big decision and provide information on your unique circumstances.

**Will installing solar panels help me:**

- **SHRINK MY ELECTRIC BILL?**
  - In generating your own supplemental power from a solar array, you will decrease the amount of electricity you take from the distribution grid. That lowers the amount of power you purchase from the cooperative. However, the upfront costs of installing a solar PV system can be quite large ($30,000-$40,000 average for a 10-kW system), and it may take 15-30 years to break even financially, even with current federal tax credit offerings. You must also take into account that a monthly Grid Access Fee will be charged to your bill once your system is interconnected. Since you will be purchasing less energy from your utility, this charge helps ensure you are paying your fair share for the poles, wires and other fixed-cost infrastructure still needed when your solar array is not producing energy.

- **REDUCE MY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT?**
  - Although your co-op’s power capacity is already 42% carbon-free (with potential to become more carbon-free with proposed carbon capture technology), solar panels are a great way to produce emission-free electricity. However, the cost to install solar panels at your home/business can be high, and you may not have the right conditions for optimal energy production (sturdy roof, south-facing slant, minimal shade). If you want to integrate more renewable energy without the large investment, you may be interested in our Infinity Renewable Energy Program. By enrolling, you can choose a designated number of kilowatt-hours or percentage of electricity used that you would like to be derived from your co-op’s portfolio of renewable resources.

- **MAKE MONEY BY SELLING POWER?**
  - Although your cooperative will purchase the excess energy that is distributed back to the grid, your best investment would be a solar array that doesn’t produce much more energy than your home or business needs. For example, if you install a 15-kW system when your home only needs 11-kW, the upfront cost of that extra 4-kW worth of panels will be much more expensive than the amount of reimbursement you will receive for excess energy over MANY years. Additionally, selling significant excess power may require distribution power system upgrades that would be your responsibility. Ultimately, it would be incredibly difficult to make a profit by selling power to your cooperative.

- **BECOME LESS DEPENDENT ON THE GRID?**
  - Unless you install a standalone solar panel system sized to meet your exact energy needs (which is incredibly expensive) or a large-scale battery for storing excess energy (also expensive), your solar panels will rely on your co-op’s power grid to function. If the power goes out due to a storm or other issue, your home will still lose power if you have grid-connected solar panels. You will also continue to need grid electricity for the times your solar panels aren’t meeting your home’s power demand.

- **BEFORE THE OUTLET**
  - Only a trained electrician should be peeking behind the outlets in your home, but have you ever been curious about what’s back there? It turns out, it’s much more than wires and currents. It’s an advanced journey of science and engineering that stretches hundreds of miles – and it’s traveled in an INSTANT.
  - Want to take a look at what happens when you plug in an appliance? Let’s start at the beginning...

  **Near each generation point, the power flows through a step-up transformer that raises the voltage, giving the electricity the boost it needs to be carried across the region by large transmission lines.**

  **While on the lines, the electricity travels hundreds of miles at the speed of light, and that electricity needs to be used as soon as it’s generated (unless it is stored in a large-scale battery). That’s why Minnkota has to generate electricity 24/7 – to keep it always available at your outlet.**

  **The outlet is where electricity ends its complicated and fascinating journey, powering your phone, your air conditioning and everything else in your life that needs a charge. The whole process happens every second of every day without you thinking twice about it.**

- **Shrink my electric bill?**
  - The path of your co-op electricity starts at several points around North Dakota – a coal-based power plant, a hydroelectric dam and dozens of wind turbines. These diverse resources are what Minnkota Power Cooperative (our power provider) uses to generate reliable electricity.

  **The power voltage through the transmission lines is much too high for use in communities, so the electricity makes a quick pitstop at a substation to be stepped down and distributed through the power lines of your local co-op.**

  **Once electricity flows through the distribution lines, it has to be stepped down in voltage one more time with a smaller transformer before it is safely accessible through an outlet.**

**July-August 2023 | PKM News**

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A regular meeting of the board was held

TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023

Chairman Hatton, president, called the roll. Upon calling the roll, the secretary reported that all directors were present.

Director Hatton presented the monthly and financial reports.

The members present discussed the following matters:

- The state of the 2023 scholarship recipients was shared with the directors, along with information on the CRF Valley Bank and the Conservation Federation Committee.

A special meeting of the board was held

MOTION TO CALL SPECIAL MEETING


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

Director Whitaker and Director Aulis shared their reports on Minnkota and Squires-Buckla.

A regular meeting of the board was held

TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2023.

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

Director Whitaker and Director Aulis shared their reports on Minnkota and Squires-Buckla.

A regular meeting of the board was held


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

Director Whitaker and Director Aulis shared their reports on Minnkota and Squires-Buckla.

November is National Co-op Month!

Enter to win a PRIZE!

Co-op Month prizes include:

- $250 energy credit
- $100 energy credit
- $50 energy credit

RETURN ENTRY BY NOV. 15, 2023.

Mail or drop off entry blanks.

◆ Look for an additional registration form for the Co-op Month giveaway in your October billing statement.

Name:  
Address:  
Phone #:  

October is National Co-op Month! Enter to win a PRIZE!
Minnesota’s Cold Weather Rule (CWR) is a state law that protects residential utility customers from having electric or natural gas service shut off between October 1 and April 30. To protect your service from disconnection you must make and keep a payment plan that you and your utility agree on. The utility must offer a payment plan that is reasonable for your household’s financial circumstances. You can set up a CWR payment plan any time during the CWR season.

You are eligible for CWR protection even if you rent – the electricity or gas must be the primary heat source and the utility account must be in your name.

You and your utility must agree to a payment plan that is reasonable for your household. You can set up a CWR payment plan any time during the CWR season.

All natural gas and electric utilities must offer CWR protection. CWR does not apply to delivered fuels; oil and propane or wood. If you use delivered fuels, and your furnace is run by electricity, you should apply for CWR protection with your electric company.

Call your natural gas, electric, municipal utility or electric cooperative for more information, or contact the Commission’s Consumer Affairs Office at consumer.puc@state.mn.us or 651-296-0406, 1-800-657-3782.

Cold Weather Rule Shutoff Protection

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

Back to School

ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS

- Check if outlets are loose or hot to the touch when something is plugged in – this could be a fire hazard.
- If an extension cord is needed in the dorm, unplug it when not in use and consider purchasing a power strip with an overcurrent protector.
- Avoid low-quality charging cords for your phone or gaming devices, and focus on cords certified by your device’s manufacturer.
- Encourage students to choose LED light bulbs, and remind them to flip the switch OFF before attempting a replacement.
- Damaged electronics can cause shock hazards. Don’t risk it. Either repair or replace them.