

A photograph of a hunter from behind, walking down a dirt path in a field of tall, dry grass. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The hunter is wearing a dark jacket, pants, and a large green and black tactical backpack. A rifle is slung over his shoulder.

## Electrical Safety Tips for Hunters

*Learn more on page 11*



# CEO Report

**JEFF RUSTAD**  
CEO  
PKM Electric Co-op

## National Cooperative Month

October is the month we celebrate cooperatives and the seven principles they live by:

- #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

I want to thank everyone who stopped by for coffee and cookies the week of Oct. 7-11. It was great to visit with everyone – many good discussions. We had multiple prizes to sign up for, as well as a coloring contest for kids. Cooperation among cooperatives seems to be something that happens weekly, whether it's sharing crews, sharing materials or helping with just about anything. It's the benefit of being part of a cooperative family. I want to thank all the members of PKM for your patience with outages when they happen, calling ahead of time for projects you are planning and working with our employees to solve issues as they arise. I also want to thank all employees and directors for their dedication to PKM and its member owners.

## Equipment causing damage

As harvest wraps up, PKM is still having issues with equipment causing damage to power lines. We've had many poles broken and lines pulled down by equipment in the field or mowing ditches. Be aware that if you damage power lines, we will send out a repair bill. On the safety side, if you contact lines, do not get out of your equipment unless you absolutely need to. I had a member call me about equipment in the line and I told him to tell the driver not to get out. By the time he called him back, he was already out of the tractor. In this case, luck was on his side and the equipment was not energized. If the equipment would've been energized at 7,200 volts, the driver would not likely have survived stepping onto the ground.

## Potential 2025 wholesale rate increase

PKM will likely be seeing a rate increase on the wholesale side in 2025. Minnkota Power Cooperative, our wholesale power

provider, has been communicating this possibility with us for a while, and as we find out more information, PKM will inform the member owners. The last wholesale rate increase we had was in April 2017, but inflationary pressures have grown immensely. Co-ops must maintain financial stability to be able to provide safe and reliable power for our members.

Minnkota is also navigating new state and federal rules and regulations. Minnkota and its Minnesota member cooperatives are trying to work with state leaders to communicate the impact of 2023's carbon-free by 2040 rule. Power supply growth in the nation is not keeping up with the amount of new capacity needed to power what is being built. Carbon-free technologies like wind, solar and batteries may help, but will not cover our growing need for electricity. We have had two grid reliability advisories this summer already. Our grid operator, MISO, and other organizations have warned about shutting down fossil fuel power plants too soon. We will stay on top of new developments and will keep you updated.

## Construction

The operations manager says we are going to run out of cable to install, but we can always find more if needed. We have a ton of work and not much time left before the weather changes. We're seeing farmers requesting to bury lines to remove poles as the crops are harvested. Removing poles and installing underground is \$4 per foot share cost with a \$1,500 flat fee this year. This would

not include three-phase circuits. New single-phase services are \$5.50 per foot with a \$1,500 to \$2,000 flat fee depending on the service. Cost per foot will be higher next year. We are seeing some requests for larger services that will happen in 2025. We need to order materials like transformers now, as the lead times are as much as 60 weeks or more.

## Solar

We just energized one more solar array up north. If you're looking at possibly adding solar/wind distributed generation (DG), give PKM a call and we can look at service size and answer any questions you may have. There is a \$100 application fee and \$1,500 interconnection fee, as well as a grid access fee per kilowatt (kW) – the first 3.5 kW is not charged for. Anything above the first 3.5 kW, we charge \$2.36 per kW. This is to help offset the cost to the co-op and its members without solar. Your cooperative is required to pay the retail rate to the solar DG member. The challenge is our retail rates include not only the cost to produce each kWh, but also the cost of transmission, delivery and demand. Most would argue that this DG rate should be changed, and it could be in the future.

In closing, I wanted to mention Minnesota had 18 cooperatives send crews down south to help with recent hurricane damage – a perfect example of cooperation among cooperatives. Also, energy sales for the month of September are up over 2023 and 2022, and total energy sales for the year are down compared to 2023 and 2022. Our margin is good at this point in the year. As always, if you have any questions you can stop by and visit or call the office.

### September/October 2024 (Vol. 78, 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](http://www.pkmcoop.com)

#### Next board meeting

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

#### Officers and Directors

President .....	Mark Hatton
Vice President .....	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.*

# PKM COOPERATIVE MONTH OPEN HOUSE

## *Event Recap and Prize Winner!*



Members were invited to stop into the PKM office in Warren the week of Oct. 7-11 for treats and to register for door prizes as we celebrated National Co-op Month.



*Sandra Maruska was the grand prize winner of a Pit Boss electric smoker grill.*



*Members enjoyed coffee, cookies and cider during the Co-op Month Open House.*



*As part of the celebration, kids were invited to participate in a coloring contest.*

**Energy credit and coloring contest winners will be announced after Nov. 1.**

## *PKM TRUNK OR TREAT EVENT*

PKM was thrilled to participate in a Trunk or Treat event for the community on Sunday, Oct. 27, put on by OSL Lutheran Church in Warren. Thank you to everyone who dressed up and took the time to come out before Halloween!



*PKM employees handed out treats and got kids excited about future careers at the co-op.*



*Trunk-or-treaters came out to visit vehicles decked out for the event from 22 local businesses and families.*



*The PKM Electric bucket truck got a ghoulish makeover for the event.*

# DEMAND RESPONSE SEASON HAS ARRIVED -

## IS YOUR HEATING SYSTEM READY?

It's time to prepare for the winter season, and we're already hearing that this one could be a doozy. The Farmers' Almanac isn't always right when it comes to predicting the weather (it was well off the mark last winter, when a projected cold, snowy winter ended up unseasonably mild), but the publication's longstanding climate formula suggests a colder-than-average December-March is on the horizon.

Whatever happens, you need to make sure your heating system is ready for the chill, especially if you are a voluntary member of PKM Electric's demand response program (often referred to as off-peak). Last year's mild winter meant demand response was deployed for fewer than 85 hours – well below the anticipated level. This year, our cooperative system is preparing for 200 hours of estimated demand response.

When winter demand for electricity gets high (like when many homes and businesses are using electric heat for extended periods), our power provider, Minnkota Power Cooperative, initiates the demand response program across the region. Those who are enrolled are automatically switched to a non-electric backup heat source, like fuel oil, propane or natural gas. If those backups have not been tested or fuel sources haven't been refilled, a homeowner may not know there's an issue until demand response hits.

If you are on the demand response (off-peak) program, now is the time to check your backup heating sources to make sure your fuel tanks are full and functioning. Minnkota will run a demand response test in early December, and members should reach out to their cooperative with

any questions or concerns before extreme weather hits.

### WHY DO WE NEED DEMAND RESPONSE?

Minnkota Power Cooperative is typically able to cover its demand with its own energy resources – a mix of coal, wind and hydropower. However, there are times during planned generator outages, extreme weather events or low wind supply that Minnkota must buy power from the energy market. By reducing the demand across the region, Minnkota can protect itself from costly market purchases for peak need that only comes a few times a year. That, in turn, keeps rates low for consumer-members – like you! By being a part of the demand response program, you can also take advantage of an even lower electric rate without any disruption in comfort.

If you would like more information on how you can save during the winter season, give us a call at the co-op or visit [pkmcoop.com](http://pkmcoop.com).

# COLD WEATHER RULE SHUTOFF PROTECTION

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. PKM Electric Cooperative is prepared to work with members who are in need of assistance paying their electric bill. 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 by email at [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us) or call **651-296-0406**, or **1-800-657-3782**.

If you need help paying your electric utility bill, you may qualify for state or federal fuel assistance. For complete qualification and application information, contact your local county welfare or community action council below.

## Northwest Community Action

Badger, Minnesota

*(Serves east Marshall County & Kittson County)*

**(218) 528-3258** or Toll Free **(800) 568-5329**

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

## Tri-Valley Opportunity Council

Crookston, Minnesota

*(Serves west Marshall County and west Polk County)*

**(218) 281-9080** or Toll Free **(866) 264-3729**



## ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

JAN 2025

Learn more at [Minnkota.com](http://Minnkota.com)

**January 7 or  
January 8, 2025**

Fargo, ND  
Fargo Holiday Inn



**January 16,  
2025**

Bemidji, MN  
Bemidji Eagles Club



**January 21,  
2025**

Fergus Falls, MN  
Bigwood Event Center



**January 29 or  
January 30, 2025**

Grand Forks, ND  
Minnkota Power Cooperative



**\$80 REGISTRATION FEE | EIGHT CODE CREDITS**

# RECLAIMING THE LAND

## BNI Coal land reclamation processes evolve with changing needs of local farmers, landowners

By **Kaylee Cusack** /// Photography **Michael Hoelt**



BNI Coal's Greg Petrick (right) says collaboration with growers like Jamie Mosbrucker (left) is critical to reclamation success.

Jamie Mosbrucker squinted through the humidity-heavy air. He took a quick survey of the hundreds of hay bales spotting the quarter section of land under his boots. More would be baled in the days to come, making for an excellent nutritional year for the Mosbrucker cattle.

This land between Center and New Salem, North Dakota, has been in the family for decades, since before Mosbrucker was born.

"This area is home. It means everything to me," he said, nodding to the horizon.

"I raised my family here. I'd be the third generation, and my son, stacking bales right now, would be the fourth generation running across these particular two sections."

The land has looked different at times. A handful of years ago, a tract of it was purchased by BNI Coal and Minnkota Power Cooperative (your cooperative's wholesale power supplier) to open a new mining area for lignite coal, used for power generation at the nearby Milton R. Young Station. Once the area was mined and the draglines moved on, the companies began the land reclamation process, which will return the land to its original productivity.

It's a process BNI Coal has been perfecting since 1979, when land reclamation regulations solidified into what they are to this day. Mining operations like BNI are asked to salvage the top five feet of topsoil and subsoil from any area they mine and replace that soil when mining is complete. Then, BNI works with area producers to restore the land back to the quality it was before mining – as approved by the North Dakota Public Service Commission – when it can then be released back to local owners.

Mosbrucker is currently working on several areas of reclaimed farmland, producing hay, alfalfa, soybeans and other crops. He's able to rent the land until it meets the standards for full bond release. It's a win-win for both the lifelong farmer and BNI Coal.

"I think it's really neat that I've seen the land go from what it was, before there was even mining in this immediate area, to what it is now, and to see the transformation," Mosbrucker said. "I feel blessed that they allow us to be renting it all these years and work alongside them, because it's a chunk of my operation."

### This land is your land

Greg Petrick, Senior Land and Public Affairs Representative for BNI Coal, works with several landowners and producers like Mosbrucker to ensure reclamation meets the standards of mining regulations. He's focused on making sure all stakeholder voices are heard. Ultimately, it's the long-time farmers who are the experts on how to make the land the best it can be.

# THE LAND RECLAMATION PROCESS

Once an area of land is mined, these steps are taken to complete reclamation:

1 Soil is graded over the mine land to its approximate original contour.



2 The topsoil and subsoil salvaged at the time of mining is respread.



3 BNI spends two years preparing the land for seeding, including chiseling, harrowing and rock picking.



4 BNI works with local growers and other land experts for at least 10 years to environmentally nurture the land to meet its pre-mine productivity.



5 Once reclamation parameters have been met, the performance bond is removed and BNI releases the land from its permit.



"It's a collaboration between our producers. Jamie (Mosbrucker) is a great one, because he tells us when something is wrong," Petrick said. "We need to know what problems exist so we can try to come up with solutions and continue to learn."

"They're doing a job putting things back the way their plan says. And sometimes I have a different idea of how it should have been done," Mosbrucker said with a grin. "But overall, you can't beat the relationship. It's been good."

BNI's processes have evolved as agriculture changes and the company learns more about the land. Around 10 years ago, BNI changed its practice of re-laying soil with scrapers when it learned the compaction was too high for good growth. It now spreads the soil with a truck and bulldozer, alleviating some of that compaction.

When a challenge arises, Petrick uses his network to find innovative solutions.

"We're not afraid to try something new. We work really hand in hand – not only with producers, but with academia, too," he said. "NDSU (North Dakota State University) has been a big supporter of ours, helping grad students so they can come out here and do research projects."

Reclamation rules cover more than just land used for agriculture, which must be as crop productive as it was before mining. If BNI mines an area that was originally native grassland, it must ensure the same coverage and diversity of native grasses is returned to the area. With wetlands, the habitat must be ecologically similar to pre-mining conditions. Land is thoroughly analyzed and surveyed before being permitted for mining, including the collection of soil data, vegetation data, wildlife data, water data and more. That data is the measuring stick for land to meet true reclamation.

"There are regulations that we need to do this. But two of our core values at BNI are environmental stewardship of the land and community engagement," Petrick said, adding that local landowners like Mosbrucker have become critical partners for Minnkota and BNI's long-term energy goals. "We want to do the best for them to give them back a good return on their land and make it valuable to them again. We couldn't do it without them."

# SLOW IS SMOOTH, SMOOTH IS FAST

## NAVY SEALS MANTRA SHOULD GUIDE ENERGY TRANSITION

As calls to decarbonize the nation's electric grid continue to grow, a series of concerns about the reliability of the systems that power our modern society are beginning to emerge.

When planning for the future of energy in the U.S., the Navy SEALs' philosophy of "Slow is smooth, smooth is fast" offers a valuable lesson in how to approach this massive, complex challenge with both urgency and care. The mantra emphasizes a fundamental principle: Rushing leads to mistakes, and mistakes lead to inefficiency or failure.

With the electric grid, too much is at stake to risk a significant collapse. Pushing too rapidly into new technologies and away from dependable energy sources – like coal, natural gas and nuclear – jeopardizes the stability of these critical systems. The consequences could be severe, leading to energy shortages, price spikes or even blackouts.

While more weather-dependent resources, like wind and solar, are being added to the grid, baseload power plants will still be needed into the future to ensure stability. Ensuring these facilities continue to provide 24/7 electricity will provide time for technology to develop, for new power line systems to connect

communities and for supply chain constraints to be alleviated.

Maintaining a robust and diverse power supply is also critical as the demand for electricity continues to increase related to the development of data centers, artificial intelligence and other emerging digital systems. Keeping pace with these fast-growing sectors of our economy will be vitally important to factor into the decision-making process on our energy future.

The energy transition is not a race to the finish line, but a marathon that requires endurance, strategy and precision. "Slow is smooth, smooth is fast" teaches us that rushing through critical phases can lead to unintended consequences, and that success comes from careful preparation, deliberate action and a long-term view.

While environmental goals are important, the reliability of our energy systems must remain paramount. A transition that sacrifices reliability in the name of speed will only slow progress in the long run. By moving deliberately and strategically, we can ensure that the future of energy is reliable, affordable and sustainable.



# Data-driven future REQUIRES RELIABLE ENERGY

AI

## Artificial intelligence driving increase in U.S. electricity demand

Every email you send, every social media post you share and every app you use relies on a vast network of data centers scattered around the globe. These data centers, humming with thousands of servers, require significant amounts of electricity 24 hours a day.

With society's increasing dependence on the Internet and the projected rapid growth of artificial intelligence (AI), the demand for electricity is expected to surge in the next five years. According to a 2024 study completed by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), data centers could double their electricity usage by 2030 – at which point they would consume 9% of America's electricity generation. A key driver is the increased computing power associated with AI.

"AI queries require approximately ten times the electricity of traditional internet searches and the generation of original music, photos, and videos requires much more," EPRI said in its report. "With 5.3 billion internet users, rapid adoption of these new tools could increase power demands substantially."

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) drew a similar conclusion in a 2024 report, estimating that U.S. data center demand for electricity will grow from 17,000 megawatts (MW) in 2022 to 35,000 MW by 2030.

While most people are familiar with ChatGPT, an AI chatbot and language tool, there are many AI and machine learning technologies that are transforming industries and automating countless tasks. Advocates tout the potential of AI to solve scientific problems, improve healthcare research and make many manual processes more efficient. This incredible computational power, however, comes with significant electricity requirements.

### POWERING THE DIGITAL FUTURE

With the expansion of our data-driven world, having a practical energy strategy will be vitally important. Reliable coal, natural gas and nuclear power plants will be needed to meet the rising demand for electricity. These dispatchable power plants have the ability to operate on a 24/7 basis

and are more dependable than other forms of power generation.

Unfortunately, many of these dispatchable power plants are currently being removed from the grid without adequate replacement. This has the potential to lead to future energy shortfalls without realistic planning, engagement and enhanced collaboration from all key stakeholders.

In addition to supporting the continued operation of needed power plants, it's also critical to significantly expand the nation's electric grid. Building new high-voltage power lines and creating stronger connections throughout the country will help ensure energy can be delivered to where it is needed.

AI and new digital technologies have the potential to transform our society, but we must ensure their energy needs remain at the forefront. By investing in reliable generation resources, we can ensure that the growth of AI contributes to a sustainable and prosperous future.

# Board meeting highlights *July and August*

## A regular meeting of the board was held Tuesday, July 30, 2024.

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

Upon motion duly made by Director Woinarowicz, seconded by Director Goodwin and unanimously carried, an executive session was called, and the board entered into executive session at 8:23 a.m.

The president returned the meeting to regular order concluding the executive session at 9:37 a.m.

Line Superintendent Joe Marcotte presented the monthly safety and operations report, indicating no accidents and no lost time. Highlights from his report included Miff from Minnesota Safety Inc. and Curt from MREA, who both did crew observations with very good reports. Curt was very impressed with how great they clean up after a job. Yearly truck inspections were done by Altec. Olson Underground is plowing some line for us this week. The linemen are very busy with service improvements, cable replacements and helping Danny Schmidt, the manager of member services, get meters to read consistently for billing.

Danny shared activities within his department. He has the Halma gateway working. Eaton finally put a plan together for PKM's software update. The Hallock crew has been busy cleaning up missed meter changeouts from Allegiant. Minnkota Power Cooperative has had 21:02 minutes of yellow zone control and 4:45 minutes of red zone control so far this year.

The CFO, Karen Olson, provided her report via call to order as she was unable to attend due to the NRECA TFACC conference.

The CEO, Jeff Rustad, shared the Operating and Financial report for the cooperative. June revenue is over budget for the month but year to date is under budget. Expenses are under budget. Summer is always a rough time of the year financially as we typically see reduced revenue and increased expenses.

The CEO referenced his written report outlining recent meetings he has attended, and highlighted information on the signing of a contract with Minnesota Safety, a NISC kickoff meeting for mapping.

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 second quarter financials were reviewed by the board of directors and found to be an accurate representation of the first half financial transactions.

Director Woinarowicz and Director Aakre gave their

reports on Minnkota and Square Butte. The directors also discussed the video Governance Talk: Dealing with Conflicts of Interest in the Boardroom.

The CEO shared miscellaneous information with the directors including CoBank election, Federated Safety and Loss Prevention Assessment, KRTA Executive Summary, NRECA International letter, cooperative energy sales and solar information.

Carr's Tree Service financials haven't been received yet, and they will be provided when they are received.

## A regular meeting of the board was held Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2024.

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 Woinarowicz.

Line Superintendent Joe Marcotte presented the monthly safety and operations report, indicating no accidents and no lost time. MREA was here with the topics of traffic safety and load securement. The linemen have been very busy with cable replacements, new services and everyday maintenance. He shared with the directors about a few projects that are in the works for this fall.

The manager of member services, Danny Schmidt, provided an update to directors regarding recent activities within his department. Schmidt received a shipment of relays. Minnkota Power Cooperative has had 30:33 minutes of yellow zone control and 10:05 minutes of red zone control. We are working on getting off-peak meter readings from meters that have not been communicating and changing them out. PKM will be doing a week of cookies, cider and coffee for Co-op Month on October 7-11, 2024, with door prizes. There will also be a coloring contest for kids in the PKM News.

The CFO, Karen Olson, opened her report with an office update. As Danny said we are diligently working on getting the off-peak meter readings that haven't been reading to us. Once we get these readings, we will be able to stay on top of them going forward. We are working with our members to clean up past-due balances before the Cold Weather Rule goes into effect in just a little over a month. We will be running trucks on Tuesday to disconnect any accounts that have not paid or made payments. Olson drew another loan fund advance for the amount of \$500,000 to get us through the summer. With increased costs across the board and cash flow becoming a real issue with the mail delay, she has another loan fund advance planned for the end of the year contingent on revenue and expenses that occur over the next few months.

The CFO continued with the presentation of the Operating and Financial report for the cooperative. She reported that revenue is up \$391,979.57 from 2023 and we are over budget slightly by \$23,494.57 for the year. Expenses are under budget by \$179,264.42. Historical data for margins for a 10-year PTD and YTD comparison were provided and discussed. Other financial data was presented and discussed, along with the current tier of 2.46. The CFO shared information with the board on a cost-of-service study. There are a few different options.

The CEO highlighted information received at the MREA Energy Issues Summit. Carr's board meeting is coming up on the 4th. There have been new Blue Horizon Solar installs in our service area. Custom Stripes just replaced PKM's sign on the building.

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

Director Aakre gave his report on Minnkota and Square Butte. The directors watched and discussed the video Governance Talk: The Risks of Micromanagement by the Board.

Financials were provided for Carr's Tree Service. The 2024 Guatemala Electrification Trip video was watched. Other informational items were presented including Cooperative Network director nomination, RESCO voting delegates, NRECA International, America's Electric Cooperative PAC, cooperative energy sales and solar.



**HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICES:**

PKM Electric Cooperative will be closed for the following holidays:

**Monday, Nov. 11, Veterans Day**  
– and on –

**Thursday, Nov. 28, Thanksgiving**  
– and on –

**Wednesday, Dec. 25, Christmas**

## 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 Tina Smith

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

#### Senator Amy Klobuchar

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

#### Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach

1237 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
www.fischbach.house.gov

202-225-2165

Fax: 202-225-1593

### State of Minnesota Legislators

#### Governor Tim Walz

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

#### Senator Mark Johnson

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

#### Representative John Burkel

309 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

651-296-9635

rep.john.burkel@house.mn

#### Representative Deb Kiel

255 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-296-5091  
800-339-9041  
rep.deb.kiel@house.mn

FOR JUST THE CHANGE IN YOUR POCKET, YOU CAN COZY UP UNDER AN ELECTRIC BLANKET FOR FIVE HOURS USING ONE KILOWATT-HOUR.



PAYING PENNIES FOR YOUR KILOWATTS – THAT'S THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY.



# Electrical Inspectors

## Marshall and Kittson Counties

Ronald Ditsch  
218-779-6758

Polk County  
George Stage  
218-284-1083

# NEED HELP 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 or Toll Free (866) 264-3729



# Electrical Safety Tips for Hunters

We encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.

- Keep clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Know where power lines and equipment are located where you hunt.
- Be vigilant in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- Never place deer stands on utility poles.
- Never place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment.

# PKM STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

This annual notice must be published for all periodicals mailed by the United States Postal Service (USPS).

**Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**  
(All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

1. Publication Title: **PKM News**

2. Issue Frequency: **Six Times Year**

3. 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**

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

5. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank):  
Publisher: **PKM Electric Cooperative Inc. PO Box 108 Warren MN 56762-0108**  
Editor: **Megan Dagsberg PO Box 108 Warren MN 56762-0108**  
Managing Editor: **Daniel Schmidt PO Box 108 Warren MN 56762-0108**

6. 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 the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

7. Publication Title: **PKM News**

8. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: **Sept/Oct 2024**

13. 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 press run)	2465	2475
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	1690	1690
c. Free or Nominal Rate (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	775	785
d. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 13b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	2465	2475
e. Free or Nominal Rate 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 Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	75	75
h. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 13e (1), (2), (3), and (4))	75	75
i. Total Distribution (Sum of 13d and 13h)	2540	2550
j. Copies Not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page K3))	10	10
k. Total (Sum of 13i and j)	2550	2560
l. Payment Post (10c offset by 10P times 100)	97	97

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box  None

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one):  
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months  
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

**Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**  
(All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

13. Extent and Nature of Circulation

13. 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 press run)	2465	2475
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	1690	1690
c. Free or Nominal Rate (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	775	785
d. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 13b (1), (2), (3), and (4))	2465	2475
e. Free or Nominal Rate 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 Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	75	75
h. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 13e (1), (2), (3), and (4))	75	75
i. Total Distribution (Sum of 13d and 13h)	2540	2550
j. Copies Not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page K3))	10	10
k. Total (Sum of 13i and j)	2550	2560
l. Payment Post (10c offset by 10P times 100)	97	97

14. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: **Daniel Schmidt**, Member Services Manager, Date: **9/9/24**

**Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**  
(All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

13. Extent and Nature of Circulation

13. 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 Electronic Copies		
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 13b) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 13a)		
c. Total Paid Distribution (Line 13b) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 13a)		
d. Payment Post (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (10c divided by 10c = 100)		

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership:  
 If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the **Sept/Oct 2024** issue of this publication.  
 Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: **Daniel Schmidt**, Member Services Manager, Date: **9/9/24**

# CO-OPS ARE COOL.

## Celebrate National Co-op Month!

As a member of PKM Electric Cooperative, you're part of something special. You're a member-owner of a rural electric cooperative that strives for innovation, works to give back to its community and provides the region with safe and reliable power. This National Co-op Month, we're celebrating some of the things that make being a co-op member so cool.

### Community Engagement

Whether it's sponsoring local events, supporting schools, or providing energy efficiency workshops and electric contractor trainings, rural electric cooperatives are deeply committed to the well-being of their communities.



### Member-owned and Governed

Unlike investor-owned utilities, electric cooperatives are owned by members like you. This means you're not just a customer. Members have a say in how PKM Electric is run by voting for the board of directors, who ensures that decisions are made with the community's best interests at heart.

### Affordable Rates

Because we operate on a not-for-profit basis, we focus on providing our services at cost to our members. Any excess profits are returned to members in the form of capital credits or used for upgrades to our services.

### Sustainability Initiatives

Minnkota Power Cooperative, PKM Electric's wholesale power provider, works to keep a diverse energy portfolio with 41% of its energy generation coming from carbon-free resources. Members can also elect to participate in energy efficiency programs like off-peak or Infinity Renewable Energy, through which you can choose how many kilowatt-hours come from wind generation.



### Positive Rural Impact

Electric cooperatives were created to bring electricity to rural areas that were overlooked by other utility companies. Cooperatives like PKM Electric continue to be a lifeline for rural communities, providing essential services and helping to drive local economic growth.



**THANKS**

We want to thank our members for your continued support and engagement this National Co-op Month. You are what makes PKM Electric so cool. To learn more about your electric cooperative, visit [pkmcoop.com](http://pkmcoop.com) or give us a call at 218-745-4711! We are here for you.