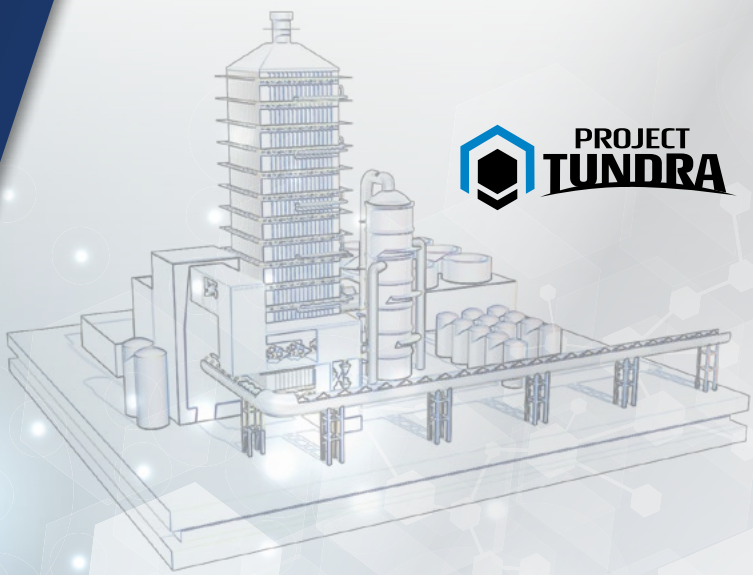
Minnkota

MESSENGER NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2019 / MINNKOTA.COM

Decade in review 2010s



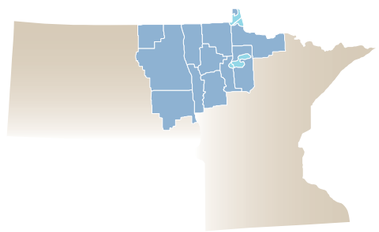
PROJECT TUNDRA

Minnkota
MESSENGER

November-December 2019

Contents

On the cover: Minnkota completed major power generation and transmission projects during the 2010s that position the cooperative to meet the needs of the membership for many years to come. The decade included environmental upgrades at the Milton R. Young Station, the addition of the Oliver III wind farm, energization of the Center to Grand Forks transmission line, construction of a new headquarters and operations center and research on carbon capture technologies.



Minnkota Power Cooperative is a generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Grand Forks, N.D. It supplies wholesale electricity to 11 member-owner distribution cooperatives, three in eastern North Dakota and eight in northwestern Minnesota. Minnkota also serves as operating agent for the Northern Municipal Power Agency, an association of 12 municipal utilities in the same service region. Together, the Joint System serves more than 153,000 customers.

Minnkota Messenger is published six times a year by Minnkota Power Cooperative. Its mission is to communicate Minnkota's perspectives and concerns to its members, elected officials, employees and other business audiences. For editorial inquiries, call (701) 795-4282 or email bfladhammer@minnkota.com.

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2010s Decade in review

The 2010s will go down as one of the most eventful decades in Minnkota history. The cooperative completed some of its largest projects, reached significant milestones and kept pace with rapid industry change.

As the energy landscape continues to evolve, Minnkota exits this decade in excellent position. The cooperative has a dedicated board of directors, a talented and driven workforce and a united membership to navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead. These people have helped drive forward the projects that have positioned Minnkota to provide safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible electricity for many years to come.

Here is a look at 10 things that helped define the 2010s for Minnkota.

Safety success

Minnkota continued to promote a culture of safety through active awareness programs and consistent hands-on training for all employees. By almost all measures, the cooperative met its goal during the decade to be an industry leader in all aspects of safety and to operate its power plants, transmission lines, substations and other equipment in the safest manner possible.

The workforce reached 1 million work hours without a lost-time injury at both the Grand Forks headquarters (2016) and the Milton R. Young Station (2019 and counting). It is believed to be the first time that these milestones have been reached by Minnkota personnel.

Initiatives aid with workforce transition

Minnkota began the decade faced with a major workforce transition. Nearly 60% of the cooperative's employees were age 50 or older in 2010. Today, about half of the workforce consists of millennials. In preparation for this change, Minnkota implemented major work process initiatives with its power production and power delivery personnel.

The Reliability Excellence (Rx) initiative was implemented at the Young Station in 2012 to help support continuous improvement in the areas of safety, environmental compliance, cost control and employee knowledge transfer. Power delivery personnel launched the P5 initiative in 2016 to improve transparency, capture institutional knowledge and promote the continuous improvement of work processes. The initiatives have helped move Minnkota from a reactive state to a proactive state – as evidenced by third-party audits conducted before and after implementation of the initiatives.

Environmental upgrades completed at the Young Station

In 2011, Minnkota completed a five-year, $425 million upgrade at the Young Station – the most significant improvements in the plant's history. Both generating units were equipped with technologies to reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO_2), nitrogen oxides (NO_x)

Minnkota has proven its power is its people by maintaining impressive safety metrics over the past decade.

The Young Station has completed several upgrades to significantly lower the level of emissions from the plant.

and mercury. The upgrade also included a complete overhaul of the plant's electrical support systems and related infrastructure.

Throughout the rest of the decade, plant staff worked to optimize the emission control equipment and reduce operating costs. The investment in the Young Station continues to produce positive results. The facility meets or exceeds all current air quality standards and remains a reliable and economical resource to meet the membership's energy needs.

The new Center to Grand Forks transmission line was Minnkota's largest-ever power delivery project, launching a new era for the cooperative.

Center to Grand Forks line project completed

In 2014, Minnkota completed the largest power delivery project in its history.

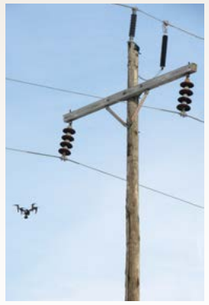
The 250-mile, $354 million Center to Grand Forks transmission line was energized after more than two years of construction. Crews moved prudently across the line's route from the Young Station to Grand Forks installing concrete foundations and erecting 125-foot-tall steel structures, taking only about 10 acres of agricultural land out of production in the process. After each pole was constructed, helicopters helped to string the line, a practice that further minimized the impact on local communities, farmland and the environment.

The completion of this project helps ensure Minnkota will provide reliable electricity in the region for many years to come.

Power delivery projects improve reliability

In the second half of the decade, Minnkota accelerated projects to address aging infrastructure and improve reliability for the membership. The primary focus has been to enhance the performance of the 69-kV subtransmission system.

The majority of this 2,300-mile power line network has aged beyond 50 years of service and was not designed to meet the heightened expectations of today's consumers in terms of reliability. More than 1,000 miles of this system has been equipped with technologies that help reduce the impacts of blink outages – those momentary losses of power often caused by a disturbance on transmission line.



Minnkota has also begun formalized programs to rebuild several line sections and distribution substations that were originally built 60-70 years ago. Additionally, crews have implemented advanced communication technology at many of the cooperative's older substation sites – a multiyear project referred to as distribution automation.

The result of these ongoing efforts is improvements in Minnkota's power delivery reliability metrics. Outage time, outages per delivery point and blink outages per delivery point have all been trending downward near the end of the decade.

Security helps drive workforce, infrastructure changes

Physical security and cybersecurity came into the forefront in the 2010s. Minnkota responded by realigning its existing security resources and creating a new employee division whose focus is on managing security, technology and the reliable operation of the electrical system. Throughout the decade, many audits and assessments were conducted to ensure Minnkota stayed ahead of technological changes.

Security was a primary driver in the decision to build a new cooperative campus – Minnkota's first new headquarters complex since the 1940s. The 252,000-square-foot facility was completed in December 2017 and helps ensure Minnkota's employees, infrastructure and data are protected from potential threats.

Oliver III adds wind to system

Energy from the Oliver III wind farm began flowing into the Minnkota-Northern Municipal Power Agency (NMPA) system in January 2017.

The 100-megawatt addition to the Oliver Wind Energy Center was developed by NextEra Energy Resources. All production is sold to Minnkota under a 35-year Purchase Power Agreement (PPA). Minnkota and NextEra have a longstanding and mutually beneficial business partnership that has helped to greatly expand wind generation in North Dakota. In addition to the Oliver III project, Minnkota has PPAs in place with affiliates of NextEra for 357 MW of wind power capacity from the Langdon and Ashtabula Wind Energy Centers on the eastern side of the state.

Young Station reaches performance milestone

After more than four decades of service, the two units at the Young Station combined to have one of their best years ever in 2017. From a production perspective, the Young Station generated 5,330,955 net megawatt-hours (MWh) during the year – the second-highest total ever behind 2008's 5,413,383 MWh. Cumulatively, the units achieved an all-time best availability rating of 95.2%.

Minnkota thrives in polar vortex events

In January 2014 and 2019, the Upper Midwest faced polar vortex events, which brought extremely cold temperatures and skyrocketing demand for electricity.

Faced with some of its most difficult tests in many years, Minnkota's resources weathered the dangerously frigid conditions and delivered reliable energy to homes and businesses when they needed it most. The integrity of the Upper Midwest's electric grid was maintained thanks in large part to the dependable operation of baseload power plants, the strategic use of demand response and successful coordination between utilities.

Project Tundra gains traction

During the decade, Minnkota began researching and evaluating the installation of technologies that would capture more than 90% of the carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions from the Young Station's Unit 2 generator – an initiative referred to as Project Tundra. Once captured, the CO_2 would be permanently stored in a deep geologic formation more than a mile underground.

In 2019, the cooperative received $9.8 million from the U.S. Department of Energy, which then provided access to $15 million from the state of North Dakota's Lignite Research Fund. The funding will be used to conduct a Front-End Engineering Design (FEED) study – the final step before deciding whether to move forward with construction. If the project moves ahead, construction would commence in 2022-2023.

If completed at the Young Station, Project Tundra could serve as a carbon-capture blueprint for other industries around the country.

Power of coal-laboration

MINNKOTA AND BNI COAL BUILD STRONGER RELATIONSHIP AROUND OPTIMIZING PLANT AND MINE PRACTICES

The ease with which Wade Boeshans and Craig Bleth teasingly recount a missed breakfast meeting makes them sound like boyhood friends – not the ones leading the show at BNI Energy and Minnkota's Milton R. Young Station.

Boeshans and Bleth, president and general manager of BNI Energy and Minnkota senior manager of power production, respectively, have grown close over the past few years. The bond is a part of the companies' recent joint initiative to build a stronger partnership for streamlining processes, eliminating redundancies and achieving lower total costs for the joint enterprise.

BNI Coal and Minnkota have been solid power partners for 50 years. But in a 2016 discussion between Boeshans and Minnkota CEO Mac McLennan, the leaders recognized they were entering an era of new challenges facing their facilities, their operations and the industry.

"BNI and its mining operation and this plant are ultimately co-destined," Boeshans said. "Our futures are tied together. There is no 'one wins, one loses.'"

The companies joined each other at the table and began to develop a cosponsored mine optimization plan, taking ideas from every level of the organizations.

"We were looking at ways to increase efficiencies, focused on saving money," Bleth said of those early planning days. "We acknowledged that BNI has certain strengths

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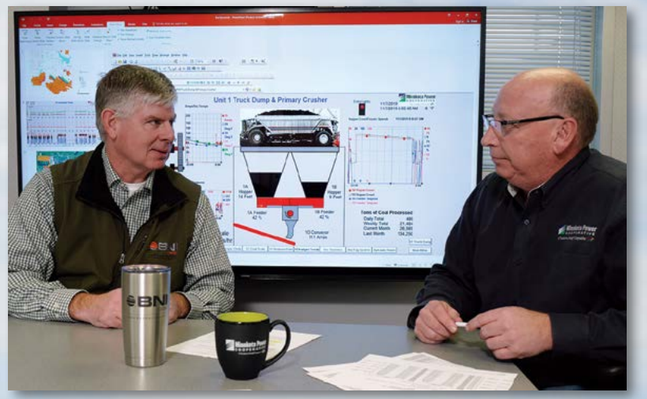


BNI Energy President and General Manager Wade Boeshans (left) and Minnkota Senior Manager of Power Production Craig Bleth discuss their collaborative team's next steps toward efficiency and savings.

"BNI and its mining operation and this plant are ultimately co-destined. Our futures are tied together. There is no 'one wins, one loses.'"

– Wade Boeshans
president & general manager, BNI Energy

One of the first action steps of the optimization plan was to improve the process by which coal is delivered to the plant.

that we could utilize, like their work with heavy equipment."

"The response from the team was phenomenal, in terms of the openness of thinking and the types of opportunities that were brainstormed," Boeshans said. "Over three to six months, we identified a set of initiatives that we were able to work together on to integrate into our respective operations.

"We realized, boy, we can do great things together," he added. "It evolved in that way."

Coal delivery examination

The details of the plan took hold in 2018. The companies laid out their optimization agenda – modifying the coal delivery and plant feed process; reclaiming and expanding the coal stockpiles; and finding ways to share equipment, services and knowledge.

One of the first projects was coal delivery. "That ultimately was the lowest-hanging fruit that wasn't identified by me or Mac or Craig, quite frankly," Boeshans said. "It was the guys who were in the trenches and managing this day-to-day."

The idea came from BNI's newly promoted production manager, Mike Heger, who realized that if weekly coal deliveries to the Unit 1 and Unit 2 generators were sequenced differently, efficiency would improve significantly.

"He modeled it all out, brought it to this optimization team and presented it there. We looked at it and said, 'That's really cool,'" Boeshans recalled.

The changes have allowed BNI to move from delivering 250-280 tons of coal per truck hour to 320 tons, creating a potential annual cost reduction of $1-2 million.

Active stockpile expansion

The team uncovered another money-saving collaboration long-buried in the mine – a million-ton field stockpile of coal that was established more than three decades ago for insurance against major events (weather, mechanical or labor related) that could interrupt coal deliveries to the plant.

Company leaders felt their proven delivery reliability had eliminated the need for that level of inventory, and that it should be reclaimed and replaced with an expanded, readily available stockpile right next to the plant. The size of the plant's active coal stockpile increased from 60,000 tons to 250,000 tons.

"The costs for mining the field coal stockpile were incurred long ago. What's left is the load and haul costs, which results in a cost reduction to us," Bleth said. Recovering the coal and reclaiming the area also eliminates a future reclamation liability.

The stockpile expansion started in 2018 with permitting, regulatory approval and engineering. Minnkota moved power lines in the spring of 2019 to allow for the expanded active stockpile and major excavation dirt work was completed in September. By the end of October, BNI started to add coal to the new, efficient stockpile.

Overall, Minnkota and BNI estimate the stockpile adjustments will create $3-6 million in cost reductions over the five-year timeframe in which they reclaim the pile.

Shared equipment and expertise

The committee then examined the companies' resources and determined BNI had heavy equipment maintenance capabilities and expertise that Minnkota could use. While Minnkota has six pieces of heavy equipment, such as haul trucks, bulldozers and loaders, BNI has more than 50. Until this year, Minnkota had been paying an outside company to perform its preventative and breakdown maintenance. Allowing BNI to work the equipment into its maintenance rotation would be achievable and more cost-effective.

"One way or another, we pay for the work. But when we pay BNI for the work, there is a return on the other side, since the mechanics' time on our equipment is deducted from the cost of coal," Bleth explained. "It's almost like getting the work for free. Those are the kinds of things Wade understood for a while, but it took time to get us all to understand," he added with a laugh.

"It took a while to understand the accounting together," Boeshans replied with a smile.

The team also recognized some equipment redundancies between the mine site and the plant site.

"We have the exact same front-end loader. We use it less than 10% of available hours, but we need it to run our businesses," Boeshans said. "So we decided to just share one loader between us. That's just one example of the ways in which we can share equipment and expertise between our two organizations."

Minnkota and BNI have also put their brains together to develop better coal-handling and blending processes and share earthworks projects. They will continue to seek other opportunities as the optimization initiative moves forward, using both state-of-the-art data analytics and old-fashioned teamwork to preserve their co-destiny.

BNI and Minnkota are evaluating ways to share large equipment. Here, a BNI Hitachi excavator loads a CAT 789 end-dump truck during prestripping operations.

"All of this is a part of what we already do. We get together and we figure things out," Boeshans said. "That was, to me, one of the biggest values of this initiative – the relationships that were built over the common goal of working together."

By **Kaylee Cusack** / Photography **Kevin Jeffrey**

The expanded active coal stockpile next to the plant will reduce delivery interruptions and create more process efficiencies.

All in for the outage

YOUNG STATION LEADERS LEVERAGE TEAM COORDINATION AND ADAPTABILITY FOR A SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL PLANNED OUTAGE

(Left to right) Paul Goldmann, Andrew Freidt and Tim Hagerott work as a team to lead hundreds of employees and contractors through major planned outages.

A major outage at the Milton R. Young Station is no game.

But to successfully complete one, the unit in charge of planning the six-week undertaking has to pull out the skills valuable in the best tabletop pastimes – strategy, adaptability and patience.

"I have 200 chess pieces. I have to decide, where are they going today?" said Paul Goldmann, Minnkota's senior maintenance coordinator for the past three major outages at the Young Station.

There's no rolling the dice on coordinating the massive interdepartmental effort, so Goldmann works with his teammates, plant managers Andrew Freidt and Tim Hagerott, to create a framework.

"It's a 10,000-piece jigsaw puzzle. It would be nice if it was just the six-piece jigsaw puzzle, where the pieces are really big," Hagerott explained, his metaphor provoking smiles and nods from the others. "But it's like the really small ones where, if you lose one, you can't find it on the floor. It's a lot of moving parts."

The Young Station's most recent major Unit 2 outage started in early September and wrapped at the end of October. The Minnkota crew worked alongside up to 470 contractors to complete inspections and maintenance in major areas such as the boiler and turbine, as well as projects like replacing expansion joints, improving valve performance and overhauling the primary coal crushers.

Although the outage itself lasted less than two months, the game plan started forming years in advance.

"Physical work is one thing. If you look from a planning perspective, that started back, in some regards, in 2016 as soon as we finished the last major outage," Hagerott said. "It's a big process. The actual outage window period is really the culmination of the planning and work that goes into it on the front end."

Coordinating the chaos

Once outage projects were selected and budgeted at the end of 2018, Goldmann and his team of a half dozen maintenance coordinators started meeting with engineers, plant specialists and department leaders. The small groups met several times until everyone had a solid understanding of what the respective projects would entail. Then, groups started combining for bigger-picture conversations.

With just six weeks to work with, every small planning choice could impact others and the larger goals of the outage. Communication was essential.

"In many cases you can't have multiple jobs working in one area at the same time, so you have to juggle that," Goldmann said. "You might schedule things on day shift or on night shift so that we can get it all done in a six-week timeframe."

Scheduling only Minnkota manpower is hard enough. But Goldmann and his project managers also had to balance the resources of more than 60 contracted entities,

During the outage, the Unit 2 turbine was opened up for rotor inspection, valve repairs and other maintenance.

Paul Goldmann (left) chats with plant specialists Lenny Bossert (middle) and Roger Bauman (right) about the outcomes of the outage.

many with dozens of people on their crews. These contractors often fly in from other states, so it was critical to get the timing right.

Many of the contractors have worked on Minnkota outages for years and have developed a strong understanding of the plant and the people in it.

"It's really easy working with them. They know our plant better than some of our newer guys know our plant and they're helping guide our people in becoming more efficient," Goldmann said. "We've been building these relationships for years."

"It's not an adoption to the team – they are a significant part of our team," Freidt added.

Safety through adversity

Even the best-laid blueprints find themselves monkey-wrenched in a major outage. Because a bulk of the work is inspection-based, the crew doesn't know what they'll find until the equipment is opened up.

The latest major outage brought an onslaught of adversity like a high volume of ash buildup in the boiler, two concurrent forced Unit 1 outages and a pesky early blizzard that kept some out-of-state contractors from driving to the plant.

"You come in in the morning and by 7 a.m. you're like, 'Well, this is not what I wanted to do today,'" Hagerott said. "You get really good at managing where all the people are. When we run into an issue, we can we move people around to be most efficient. It's like that every day. You constantly adapt."

A lot of rerouting happens on the fly, but the team always takes it slow enough to avoid missteps. "Safety is huge," Goldmann emphasized. "It's always the number one thing that we stress."

In April 2019, the Young Station passed a milestone of 1 million work hours without a lost-time injury. The outage wouldn't stand in the way of continuing that streak. The focus on safety involved prejob briefings to understand the hazards of the work, daily JSAs (job safety analyses) and the incorporation of contractor safety representatives who met weekly with Minnkota's safety staff to discuss the projects ahead.

> **"It's really easy working with them [contractors]. They know our plant better than some of our newer guys know our plant and they're helping guide our people in becoming more efficient."**
>
> – Paul Goldmann
> senior maintenance coordinator

"The key is planning. Paul [Goldmann] always says, 'The more we can plan these jobs, the safer they are,'" Freidt said.

Not over 'til it's over

When the outage ended and the plant was firing again, the work wasn't done. Coordinators and project managers jumped straight into postoutage reports and assessments that allow them to learn from the experience and start prioritizing discovered needs for the next major outage.

As sometimes happens, the endeavor ran a few days past schedule. However, with the main goals accomplished and a sterling safety record intact, Goldmann considers this another success for the plant.

"From the hand we were dealt at the beginning of the outage, and how we adjusted to the early complications, I think we did a very good job getting to the end," he said.

The challenges and time crunches have bonded Goldmann and his outage entourage. He recalls banter with his coordinators, late night calls and texts with Freidt and Hagerott, and a celebratory pizza party and sloppy joe feed with the contractors and crew.

Executing an outage is no game – but that doesn't mean it can't be enjoyable.

"It's fun," Goldmann grinned. "I get to work with some good guys who make my job easier."

By **Kaylee Cusack** / Photography **Kevin Jeffrey**

Rate stability highlights budget

The Minnkota Power Cooperative board of directors voted to approve the 2020 budget and rates at its November meeting.

No increase in the wholesale rate components is included as part of the capital and operating budgets. A five-year forecast projects stable rates for the 11 member distribution cooperatives in the Minnkota system.

"Minnkota remains in solid financial condition," said Mac McLennan, Minnkota president and CEO. "Our long-term focus is on maintaining competitive rates, while continuing to enhance the value we provide to the membership."

The 2020 capital budget is $41.1 million, about 84% of which will be invested in the power delivery system. Addressing Minnkota's aging system will be a significant focus during the year. Projects to rebuild decades-old distribution substations, 69-kV transmission line and ripple injector equipment are all scheduled for 2020, in addition to continued work on blink mitigation and distribution automation projects.

"We continue to see positive results from the investments made in improving the reliability of our power delivery system," McLennan said. "We have programs in place that help us address aging infrastructure in a cost-effective manner."

On the power production side, there are no major maintenance outages scheduled at the Milton R. Young Station in 2020, which contributes to a lower capital budget. Security and reliability items budgeted for 2020 include upgrades to the IT network and energy management system (EMS).

Minnkota's revenue requirement in 2020 is budgeted at $409.8 million, a $0.9 million increase from the 2019 budget. Expenses are budgeted at $402.4 million, a $0.3 million increase from the previous year's budget.

The net margin is projected to be $7.3 million before the recognition of $4.7 million of deferred revenue to reach the cooperative's target margin level of $12 million.

"Our long-term forecast shows that there are opportunities to make needed investments in our generation and transmission assets without impacting rates," McLennan said. "Our mission remains to provide our members with the best energy value in the region."

Baudette scores a big donation

ANONYMOUS DONOR PAVES WAY FOR NEW ENERGY-EFFICIENT HOCKEY ARENA

When Baudette built a hockey arena in 1964 and 1965, the entire community chipped in to make it possible.

The arena board's 1966 annual report said more than 400 people combined to volunteer nearly 12,000 hours on the project.

Fast-forward several decades and the city's new arena is in big part the doing of one person – a mystery donor. The man, who declined to be identified, donated $6 million to build the new $7 million Lake of the Woods International Arena.

To boot, the donor is donating a sustainability fund for the arena. All Baudette officials will say is that the donor was born and raised in Baudette.

"The main mission behind this – the donor who wishes to remain anonymous said – through this whole thing is to get more kids skating," said Mike Schulz, member of the Lake of the Woods International Arena board of directors.

The arena receives its electricity from North Star Electric Cooperative, one of the 11 member-owners of Minnkota. North Star provided incentives to help the arena board build the 1,000-plus-capacity facility as energy efficient as possible, paying out more than $12,000 in rebates for materials such as LED lighting and lighting controls.

Unique features

This is not your typical arena.

Windows were placed on the north side of the facility so people interested in skating can see if the lights are on as they approach the building from Minnesota State Highway 11. After 20 to 30 minutes of inactivity, the lights over the rink dim.

"The other thing is, during the day, that light is coming in," Schulz said. "You go to a normal rink during the day and it's like going into a cave."

The lighting also features a dim option. While the lights might be at 40% capacity during practices, they will be at 100% during games.

Other unique features of the arena include:

- Radiant heating above the bleachers to help remove the chill for fans before games.
- A penalty box located between the players boxes of each team to ensure seamless viewing for fans. Usually it's on the other side of the ice.

Bought land from school

The arena board purchased the land for the new arena from the Lake of the Woods school district for $1. The new building rests a few inches from the school's swimming pool, which abuts the school. It's a well-designed concept, with football and track and field facilities across the road from the arena. Everything sports happens to the west of Baudette on school property. In fact, spring sports can use the arena when needed.

"We went from a synthetic system to a natural system," Schulz said. "It's a much more efficient system. Right now this system is equal to or better than any NHL rink out there. It's state of the art. This is something where we thought investing a little more money was a wise idea."

Kevin Holen, North Star member services manager, said the amperage draw on the building is minimal, even with the ice plant running.

"I think the cost savings are going to be beneficial," he said.

Since the donor was most interested in providing a skating experience for youth, the arena will have equipment available for those who want to try the sport or are back in the Baudette area for the holidays.

The fan experience was also important for organizers.

"We tried to make a great view of the ice surface for a game. If you notice out here along the glass, there's the aluminum stanchions. But when you get in front of the bleachers, it's all seamless glass," Schulz said.

Holen said the arena is under demand response control. A used CAT diesel generator on the north side of the arena allows for great savings on the electricity bill. This demand response program is voluntary for customers who allow Minnkota to turn off, by remote control, electric heaters and interruptible loads in exchange for a discounted electric rate.

Though they received a big check, board members didn't spend wildly on the building.

"We had the generous gift up front," Schulz said. "And we have sustainability, too, but we have to be responsible."

Lake of the Woods has been known for having one of the coldest rinks in northwest Minnesota. The new arena will change that a bit, but the rink will remain cool. Fans will see a temperature improvement in the stands, but coaches and players prefer hard, fast-paced ice.

Don Krause instructs a skater at the Lake of the Woods Hockey School. The event was one of the first activities on the new ice sheet.

The arena also is handicap accessible. Sam Lyon, the arena director, invited residents from the local nursing home to the facility to watch some youth hockey this past summer. They took the elevator up a floor and saw a great view of the ice through the glass.

A skater goes through a drill at the Lake of the Woods Hockey School.

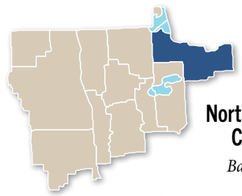
"These are things you don't think about in the beginning," Schulz said. "But they were able to go in that elevator, get upstairs and now these people will be able to come and watch."

Several local businesses, including Border State Bank and AmeriCInn, are big financial supporters of the project.

The first boys high school varsity game was Nov. 30. Lake of the Woods played host to International Falls in a rivalry game. Sponsoring the event was Border State Bank, which has locations in both Baudette and International Falls.

"And it's going to become an annual thing – the Battle of the Border," Schulz said.

By **Kevin Fee** / Photography **Kevin Jeffrey**



Served by
North Star Electric Cooperative
Baudette, Minn.

- Incorporated – June 23, 1940
- Year energized – 1944
- Board members – 7
- General manager – Ann Ellis
- 2018 members – 6,549
- Miles of line – 1,444

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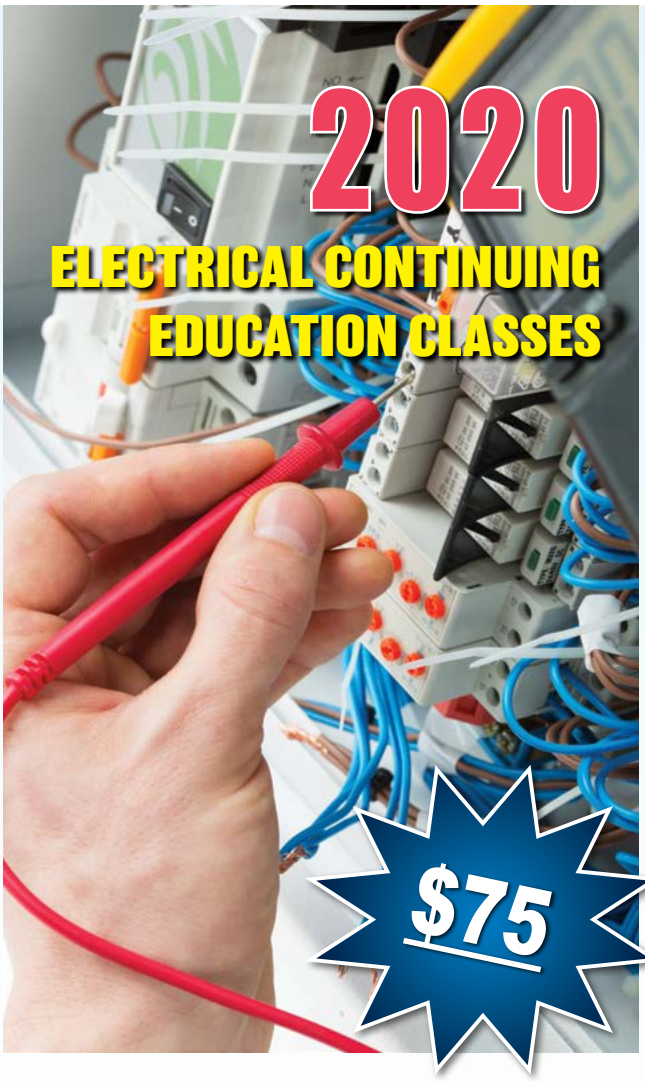

Dates and Locations

Fargo - Wednesday, Jan. 8
Holiday Inn, 701.282.2700
3803 13th Ave South
Fargo, ND 58103

Fargo - Thursday, Jan. 9
Holiday Inn, 701.282.2700
3803 13th Ave South
Fargo, ND 58103

Fergus Falls - Tuesday, Jan. 14
Bigwood Event Center, 218.739.2211
925 Western Ave
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Bemidji - Thursday, Jan. 23
Eagles Club, 218.751.9985
1270 Neilson Ave SE
Bemidji, MN 56601

Grand Forks - Tuesday, Feb. 4
Minnkota Power Cooperative, 701.795.4292
5301 32nd Ave South
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Grand Forks - Wednesday, Feb. 5
Minnkota Power Cooperative, 701.795.4292
5301 32nd Ave South
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Class Schedule

7:15 - 8 a.m. – Sign-in
8 a.m. - noon – Workshop
Noon - 1 p.m. – Lunch provided
1 - 5 p.m. – Workshop

Sponsors

Beltrami Electric Cooperative
Cass County Electric Cooperative
Cavalier Rural Electric Cooperative
Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative
Nodak Electric Cooperative
North Star Electric Cooperative
PKM Electric Cooperative
Red Lake Electric Cooperative
Red River Valley Cooperative Power Association
Roseau Electric Cooperative
Wild Rice Electric Cooperative

Minnkota Power COOPERATIVE
OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY
Northern Municipal Power Agency and the participating municipals
Western Area Power Administration