

Minnkota

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MESSENGER



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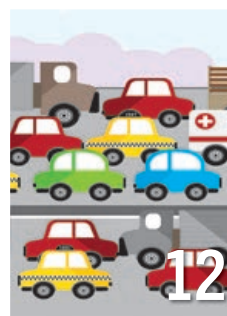
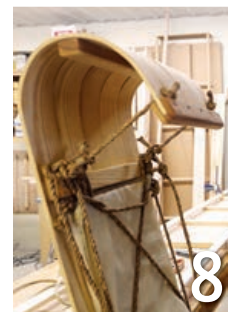
Northerners are used to dangerously low temperatures. But when cold snaps dip unusually far south, it can challenge the regional electric grid. Minnkota and its partners have found that solid demand response programs and baseload resources are key to powering through a polar vortex event.

8 Northern Toboggan

The Harrens handcraft memories from their small northern Minnesota shop. The family's classic wooden toboggans and snowshoes generate a rush of nostalgia that can only be treated with a trip to your favorite sledding hill.

12 Congestion control

Through a robust demand response program, Minnkota is able to effectively manage energy rush hours – the times when demand for electricity outpaces the available economical supply. This practice helps ensure electric reliability and saves money for Minnkota, its members and end-use consumers.



On the cover: Northern Toboggan's team of (left to right) John Harren, Josh Kasprovicz, John Koets, Solveig Harren and Jackson Harren display the sleds and snowshoes they create near Warroad, Minn.

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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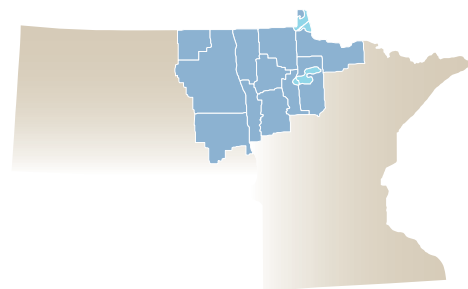
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Minnkota Power Cooperative is a generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Grand Forks, N.D. It supplies wholesale electricity to 11 member-owner distribution cooperatives, three in eastern North Dakota and eight in northwestern Minnesota. 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.

Cold shows need for Project Tundra

By Mac McLennan, president and CEO of Minnkota Power Cooperative

When temperatures across the region dropped to 30 below zero in mid-January, most of us hurried indoors, turned up the heat and flipped on our computers and TVs for entertainment. There likely wasn't a second thought as to where the electricity powering our region was coming from during those bitterly cold days.

As demand for electricity increased, there were stretches when almost all of the Upper Midwest's energy came from a combination of coal, natural gas and nuclear. This is not a new phenomenon. Routinely, subzero temperatures can limit the ability for wind and solar to produce energy for homes and businesses when they need it most.

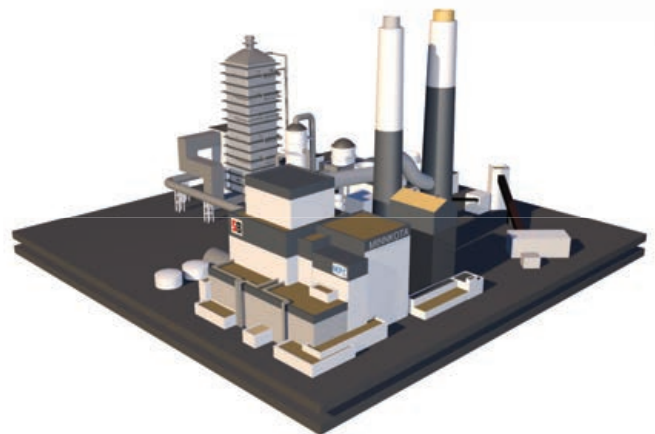
For Minnkota Power Cooperative and its member cooperatives in eastern North Dakota and northwest Minnesota, coal was the primary reason the lights (and everything else) stayed on.

Coal is a low-cost and reliable resource, but it is challenged in today's world as society focuses on making significant reductions in carbon dioxide emissions. That's why Minnkota is pursuing Project Tundra – a major initiative to build the world's largest carbon capture facility right here in North Dakota.

The project aims to transform our largest coal unit into a near-zero carbon emissions resource using state-of-the-art technology. The CO₂ removed by Project Tundra

would be returned to the land it came from. Directly under the coal mine that provides fuel to the power plant, there is a deep geologic rock formation more than one mile below the surface to safely store the CO₂. If we're successful, we will remove an amount of CO₂ equivalent to permanently taking 600,000 gasoline-fueled vehicles off the road. More importantly, Project Tundra could be used as a blueprint by utilities in the United States and countries around the world who plan to continue using coal as a resource. The project is currently in the advanced engineering and design phase, with a goal to begin construction within the next few years.

Our nation is striving toward a cleaner electric grid, but that doesn't mean we have to shut down all fossil fuel generators and depend solely on wind and solar facilities. In our region, that simply won't work. The stakes are too high. When it's 30 below zero, we need electricity so reliable that we don't have to think twice about it.



Polar vortex reflections

LESSONS LEARNED FROM COLD WEATHER MAXIMUM GENERATION EVENT OF 2019

When last winter's brutal polar vortex swing hit North Dakota and Minnesota, Todd Sailer wasn't worried about his vehicle starting or protecting his fingers from the negative 65 wind chill.

The Minnkota senior manager of Power Supply was thinking about keeping the heat on. For everyone in the Upper Midwest.

"I don't really remember much outside of work, because your whole day is consumed with trying to make sure that everything is in order so that you have electricity for the region," Sailer said. "At that point, you're really focusing on the bigger picture."

The extreme multiday freeze of January 2019 dipped down into states that rarely realize that level of cold. The event brought several tests to the electricity supply of the North Central

U.S. and Manitoba, which is managed through a working relationship between utilities and Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) – a regional transmission organization (RTO) that monitors and controls the stability of the power grid.

When temperatures drop to dangerous lows, demand for power and heat goes up. At the same time, that subzero air can hinder wind generators, which make up a large part of the generation footprint. In response to these challenges, MISO declared a Maximum Generation Event across its North and Central regions.

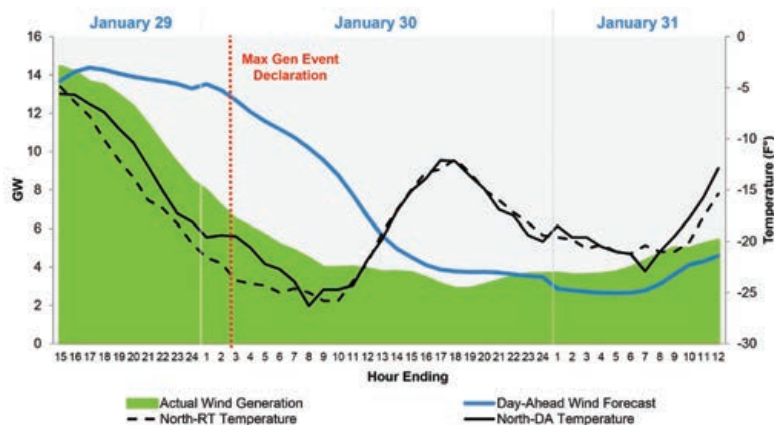
"Basically, wind dropped off more than MISO was expecting. They knew they would have some wind generators drop off because of the cold, but they didn't think it was going to drop that far south," Sailer said.

The Maximum Generation Event declared for Jan. 30-31 allowed MISO to proactively manage the region's high load and available generation resources, as well as access additional load management, emergency power purchases and calls for public conservation.

Demand response

On Jan. 29, Sailer and his team prepared for a tough 48 hours of demand response, energy marketing and constant communication with MISO and other utilities.

"We knew," Sailer recalls. "We were expecting that we wouldn't have wind the next morn-



The above graphic illustrates how actual wind generation came in far lower than forecast during the polar vortex event. That vast discrepancy led to the declaration of a Maximum Generation Event on Jan. 30. (Courtesy of MISO)



Hillsboro-CV junior becomes fifth sibling to reach 1,000-point milestone: Page B1

Grand Forks Herald

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2019



Eric Hylden / Grand Forks Herald

On a day when it was colder in Grand Forks than the Arctic Circle, a shopper at the Sam's Club parking lot walks briskly to her car at -26 degrees with a windchill of -59 degrees. Wednesday's forecast calls for even colder temperatures.

HOW LOW WILL IT GO?

Extreme colds cause extra work for snow crews while officials warn of frostbite

ing [Jan. 30] because of the temperatures. With our forecast, we had already planned on using demand response before MISO asked us to do it."

With a shortfall in generated electricity, MISO called on Minnkota, Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company and others to use demand response – temporarily

controlling voluntary consumers' dual-fuel heat, storage heaters, etc. – to help take some strain off the system. This was the first time in the region MISO required utilities to do so for grid reliability. It was also the first time MISO required Minnkota to run its emergency diesel generators located throughout the service area.

continued on page 6

The Jan. 30 front page of the Grand Forks Herald told the story – communities around the region were unsure of just how dangerous the cold could become. (Courtesy of Forum Communications)

In addition to these procedures, MISO purchased resources from other regions outside of the Upper Midwest.

“Because they have a big-picture view of what’s going on across states, RTOs are able to manage these events much easier than individual utilities,” Sailer explained. “With Minnkota’s well-developed demand response, we were able to limit our exposure. We were actually able to add some support to the region’s neighboring utilities because we had more resources than we had load.”

Ultimately, the regional power grid remained strong and consistent through the event.

“Minnkota is a valuable partner in helping maintain reliability of the system by being prepared for extreme conditions and ensuring resources and systems are available when needed,” said Darrin Lahr, MISO external affairs.

“Our team did a great job,” Sailer said. “When you look at what we were doing and what they were managing, and all of the different things they had to communicate – with our members, with MISO, with the control center, with our staff – it went really well.”

Baseload resources

Minnkota’s baseload coal power plant near Center, N.D., became one of the stabilizing pieces of the emergency. When wind generation came in low, the Milton R. Young Station was still firing reliably.

“The plant worked well as a team with the Power Supply group to be well aware of the issue in advance and make plans to adapt to the situation,” said Craig Bleth, senior manager of power production. He added that a routine cleaning outage scheduled over the time of the bitter cold had already been moved outside of the weather window,

a decision that was made a full five days before the polar vortex’s effects. “Extreme events like this demonstrate that there is no substitute for baseload resources,” he said.

“All of the resources were challenged during this event. But coal, in general, fared well, especially in our region,” Sailer said. “Our plant performed – we had no outages and, really, no limitations.”

Lessons learned

The historic cold snap presented an opportunity to mark areas for improvement in energy operations.

“MISO and its stakeholders have embarked on an effort to examine our processes to make sure there are adequate resources available in times of need,” MISO’s Lahr said.

One resource that is difficult to forecast and manage is wind. As states establish more requirements for renewable energy on the system and utilities add those resources to their portfolios, more accurate wind forecasting (including the temperature threshold for wind generation) will be crucial. Otherwise, time and money will have to be invested on building up a transmission system to get electricity from other regions during times of high demand.

The Upper Midwest system also learned the value of real-time demand response. MISO has numerous demand response programs registered, but many are unable to launch as quickly as Minnkota’s, which can take effect within 10 minutes. For some utilities, demand response can take hours, or even days.

“Load modifying resources are something that will be more valuable as the grid gets more renewable resources,” Sailer said. MISO is looking to increase its awareness of the availability and performance of those

programs during an emergency event to better harness the benefits.

MISO has already presented its findings to many entities and will continue to work with its members to build on what was learned in 2019 and during the Maximum Generation Events before it. This openness and collaboration will help maintain a reliable electricity flow for the area – and the country.

By Kaylee Cusack / Photography Kevin Jeffrey



Energy marketers like Minnkota's Amber Langemo (left) and Mark Fulbright are a part of the planning team that ensures load remains balanced and resilient when resources fluctuate.

The science of the vortex

As someone who has spent years explaining weather as a TV news meteorologist and a weather mentor of college students, Fred Remer knows how to simplify the science of the polar vortex.

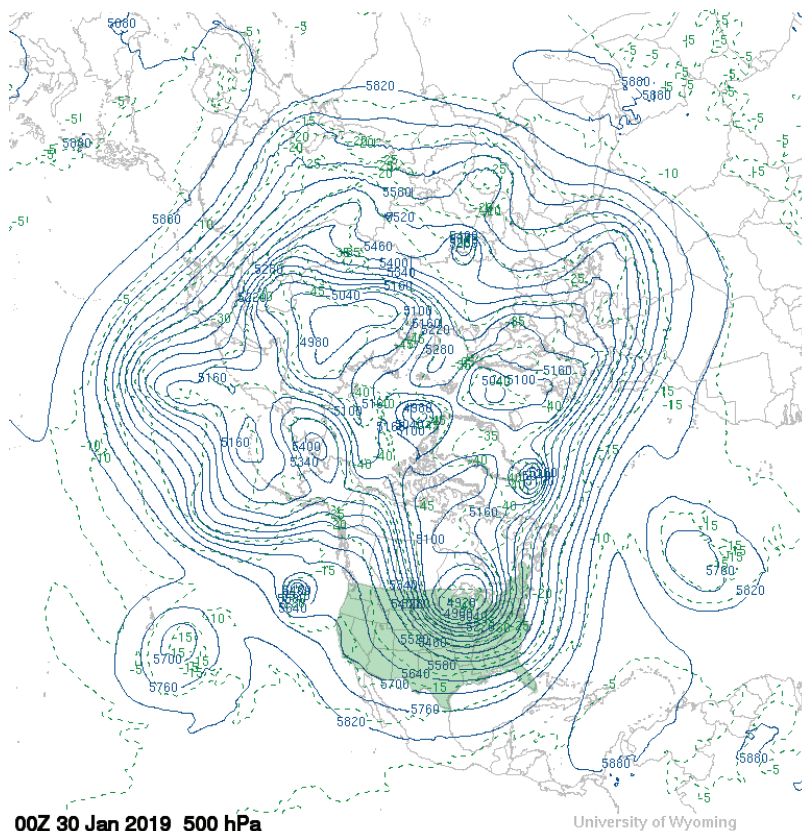
The first thing he wants to clear up is that a polar vortex isn't a weather event, like a thunderstorm or blizzard.

"There's only one polar vortex, and it's there all the time," said Remer, University of North Dakota associate professor of Atmospheric Sciences. Remer explained that the polar vortex is a "blob" of low atmospheric pressure, creating a cold-air mass centered at the North Pole.

"When the polar vortex shows up in the news, that's when it has meandered," he said. "As long as it stays at the North Pole, we're OK. But when it comes down, that's when we have a problem."

In the case of the 2019 event, a weaker-than-normal jet stream allowed the polar vortex to break up into smaller masses and move south. "We had a little piece of the Arctic come down," Remer said.

This was not a one-off occurrence. A similar event hit the northern U.S. in 2014 and scientists expect the phenomenon to continue, reinforcing the necessity of strong baseload resources into the future.



00Z 30 Jan 2019 500 hPa

University of Wyoming

This atmospheric pressure chart from the University of Wyoming shows an area of the "broken" polar vortex sitting over the Upper Midwest on Jan. 30, 2019.



Northern Toboggan's team of (left to right) John Harren, Josh Kasprovicz, John Koets, Solveig Harren and Jackson Harren display the sleds and snowshoes they create near Warroad, Minn.

Harren family creates winter fun

NORTHERN TOBOGGAN
FINDS NICHE IN THE NORTH

One might say divine intervention played a role in John Harren becoming a master at building sleds and toboggans.

After all, his uncle, Father Raymond Deschênes, is the one who steered him into opening the business known as Northern Toboggan Company a few miles northeast of Warroad, Minn., in the far northern reaches of the United States. (The business receives its power from North Star Electric Cooperative, one of 11 member-owner distribution cooperatives in the Minnkota Power Cooperative system.)

Harren started crafting sleds and toboggans in the mid-1990s after Deschênes told him about the need for somebody to build them for northern Canadians who wanted

to haul goods through the snow or enjoy a ride down a hillside. A toboggan business in Thompson, Manitoba, had become dormant.

A member of Oblate Fathers of Winnipeg who devoted his life to helping others, Deschênes learned of a shortage of toboggan/sled makers from a priest friend who lived in the same retirement community. Deschênes, always looking out for his nieces and nephews, suggested Harren look into it.

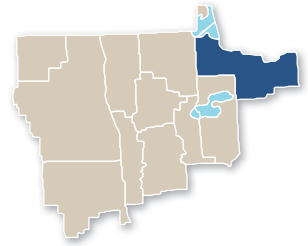
A carpenter by trade, Harren took his uncle's advice and contacted Milton Chaboyer, a toboggan maker who lived more than 9 hours from Warroad in Thompson. Harren went to Thompson and asked Chaboyer to mentor him.

"He left our residence very enthusiastic," Chaboyer recalled in a telephone interview



“There’s been a number of projects we’ve done over the years that really deal with people getting out on the land, preserving heritage ... That’s one of the neatest things about this business, is the connection we make with the different groups of people who are trying to encourage that lifestyle and traditional products.”

– Jackson Harren



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

from his home in Thompson. “He called me a couple of days later and said he was interested and asked how to proceed with the possible sale of my business.

“I told him I wasn’t prepared to sell my business, but I would sell my knowledge of building sleds if he was interested.”

Chaboyer and his wife later spent a week on the Harrens’ 40 acres, the Canadian showing the American the intricate processes of making ropes.

“He took to it like a duck to the water,” Chaboyer said. “He had the carpentry background and the work ethic. I’ve seen his stuff. I have his brochure. I took possession of a couple of sleds and resold them up here as advertising.

“The locals here realized that the product was still available, only at a different location now. John, in my opinion, is a perfectionist. He’s always attempting to improve the product.”

Chaboyer says Northern Toboggan is making what he refers to as the old Hudson’s Bay toboggans. Following the arrival of Hudson’s Bay Company in the 19th century, Canada’s indigenous people designed and built toboggans to haul animal furs across the rough, frozen land. Early

on, toboggans were designed to be pulled manually. Now one can see them also being pulled behind dog teams and snowmobiles.

“We send toboggans all over North America and we’ve really grown the business in the last three, four years,” said Jackson Harren, son of John. “We’re getting into more niches, developing our partnerships with the dealerships up north. We sell



Solveig and Jackson Harren (foreground) inspect a toboggan that is being crafted inside the company’s shop.



Solveig and Jackson Harren compare wooden snowshoe frames and ensure a high quality of craftsmanship before beginning the lacing process.



A wooden snowshoe frame is ready to be laced.

a lot of toboggans across the Northwest Territories and we've expanded now into the Arctic co-op stores or Inuit stores up in Nunavut, a massive, sparsely populated territory in northern Canada."

In the United States, the company sells most of its toboggans and sleds to customers from New York, Colorado, Michigan, Illinois and Minnesota. But Northern Toboggan recently had two large boxes of materials in its cold storage shed boxed for shipment to Alabama. Yes, Alabama. Apparently the buyer is constructing a building in a remote area of Canada and wanted to use Northern Toboggan's freight sleds to transport materials.

Jackson, his wife Solveig and his brother Gabriel have given Dad a hand running the business the past few years. Jackson, a manufacturing engineering manager at Marvin Windows and Doors in Warroad, helps with the processes. Solveig keeps the books and handles shipping logistics. Gabriel, who works for a software development and IT consulting firm in the Twin Cities, has expanded the marketing effort by optimizing reach in search engines. When you search for toboggans on the internet, Northern Toboggan surfaces near the top.

"This is kind of our family farm business we help out with," Jackson Harren said with a smile.

Jackson acknowledges that you can find a mass-produced toboggan for \$100 at some online outlets, but he says they can't match Northern Toboggan's craftsmanship and detail.

Northern Toboggan's downhill series red oak toboggans range from about \$350 for a 4-foot model to \$775 for an 8-foot model. The winter essential series red oak cargo toboggans range from \$760 for a standard model to nearly \$1,500 for a fully rigged model with a sleigh box and canvas wrap.

Customers use the sleigh box on cargo toboggans for such things as hauling camping gear, building materials, animal traps, mining equipment or even family members. In addition, Northern Toboggan makes red oak freight sleds and box-freight sleds. Chaboyer originally built those items for the commercial fishing market in northern Manitoba.

You won't find CNC (computer numerical control) machines or long production lines at Northern Toboggan. There isn't room for them in the orderly 30-by-40-foot shop.

"To get the quality of the product that

we want and need typically requires a lot of hands-on work," Jackson said. "We take advantage of power sanding and planing, and we have a good band saw and joiner and those types of things. But there's still a lot of time that goes into them."

John Harren and apprentices Josh Kasprovicz and John Koets are the primary craftsmen at Northern Toboggan. Kasprovicz and Koets joined one of Jackson Harren's sons, Henry, on one of the company's toboggans in a three-person event at the 2020 U.S. National Toboggan Championships on Feb. 8-9 in Maine. Four hundred teams from around the world have participated in the competition, including one from Jamaica.

Gabriel and Jackson Harren also raced in the event. The company made about 14 white ash race toboggans for other teams entered in the competition as well.

"It's a nine-second race down a chute," John Harren said of the race, which has a 440-foot chute. "It's highly competitive, trying to see who can build the fastest toboggan."

In addition to sleds, toboggans and a recent addition of wood snowshoes, Northern Toboggan has completed a few fun custom woodworking projects. One involved building giant water skis for a display in Lake City, Minn., the birthplace of water skiing. The 150-pound display Northern Toboggan built features a replica of the first skis worn by Lake City's own Ralph Samuelson.

The company also built the bar and some shelving for the new brewery in Warroad.

"There's been a number of projects we've done over the years that really deal with people getting out on the land, preserving heritage, remembering ancestors, that sort of

thing," Jackson Harren said. "That's one of the neatest things about this business, is the connection we make with the different groups of people who are trying to encourage that lifestyle and traditional products."

The Harrens have a tradition of gathering over the holidays and testing out their snowshoes, sleds and toboggans. Several years ago, when a contractor was looking for a place to haul dirt from ditches he was cleaning nearby, John Harren agreed to take the dirt with one stipulation: He wanted the man to flatten the top of the dirt hill.

With that came a 30-foot spot where the family can test and enjoy sleds and toboggans in close proximity to the shop. They call it Harren Mountain.



Traditional Alaskan wooden snowshoe frames are stacked and ready for the next step in the process.

By Staff / Photography Kevin Jeffrey



The Harrens help load a semitrailer with products to be shipped to customers across North America.



Congestion control

DEMAND RESPONSE IS KEY
TO MANAGING RUSH HOUR
ON THE REGION'S ELECTRIC SYSTEM

Imagine you're stuck in rush hour traffic. It's gridlock. No one is moving. What if you could make many of the cars around you disappear?

When Minnkota Power Cooperative and its members run into their own version of rush hour, they have the ability to remove more than one-third of the demand from the electric superhighway. It's part of a program referred to as demand response, and over the last four decades, it has helped strengthen the reliability of the grid, while saving member-consumers millions of dollars in the process.

Energy rush hours occur when people across the region are using significant amounts of electricity at the same time. Early-morning hours, when people often start their day, and evening hours, when people return to their homes after work, are common times for these high energy demand periods. Extreme weather events that require heating and cooling systems to run continuously can further drive demand for electricity above the available supply.

Just as cities don't build new highway systems to accommodate a few hours of traffic, Minnkota doesn't build additional power plants for the times each year when electricity demand reaches its peak.

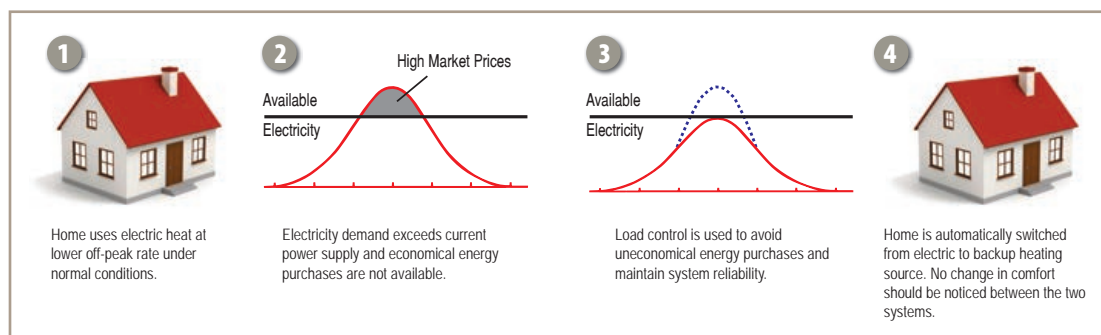
There is a better way.

If Minnkota is not able to economically purchase the additional energy it needs from the regional market or another utility, the cooperative's demand response system is launched into action. Electricity consumers in the region voluntarily sign up for the program, which allows Minnkota to temporarily turn off electric heating, water heating, vehicle chargers and commercial account service. During these "control periods," most consumers are automatically switched to a backup heating system or generator.

The savings from not having to purchase additional power and avoiding energy rush hours are passed on to consumers through a lower electric rate – a true win-win.

The program is popular with nearly 55,000 consumers participating across eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. About 350 megawatts – or one-third of





Minnkota's peak load – can be interrupted through demand response, allowing decongested travels on electric avenue.

How does it work?

The demand response system is launched from Minnkota's energy control center in Grand Forks. Power system operators use computers to send tens of thousands of electronic signals through Minnkota's power delivery system and into distribution power lines. Receivers plugged into standard electrical current at consumer homes and businesses can read the signals, and when the appropriate message is sent, the receivers interrupt the electric power flowing to a water heater, electric heating system or other controlled load. When control is no longer needed, a signal is sent to turn the electric system back on.

Based on metering and market conditions, Minnkota's system operators and energy marketers know when a peak load period is approaching. Depending on the amount by which Minnkota needs to reduce the peak, the operators choose various

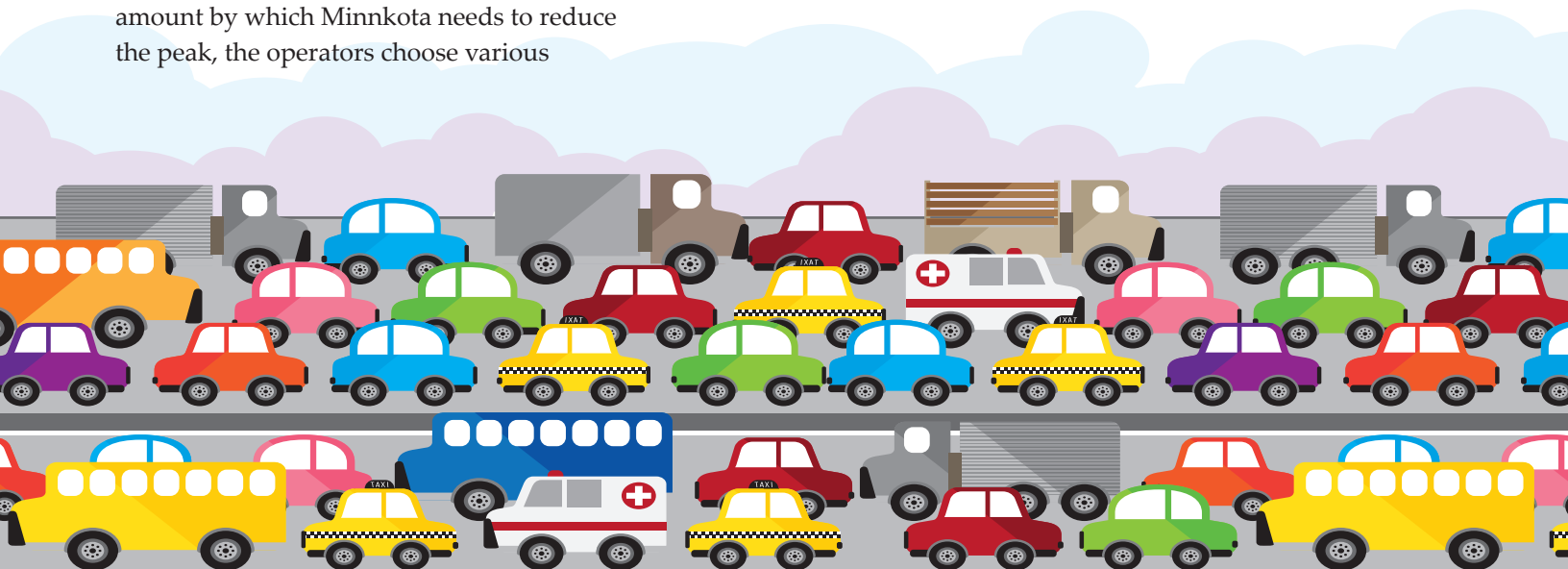
groups of controlled load and turn them off using the demand response system.

Timing matters

Consumers often focus on how much electricity they use, but *when* they use electricity is just as important. While usage fluctuates during the day, demand response helps encourage the wise use of electricity by shifting demand from "on-peak hours" to "off-peak hours." Using less on-peak power means lower costs for the co-op – and ultimately, lower rates for members.

The Minnkota demand response program could not be a success without widespread support from the member cooperatives and associated municipals. Residential and business consumers also endorse the program because they understand it has been developed to provide them with the most value for their energy dollar.

By Ben Fladhammer



Minnkota, Square Butte to hold annual meetings

Minnkota Power Cooperative and Square Butte Electric Cooperative will host their annual meetings April 3 at the Minnkota Power Cooperative campus in Grand Forks.

While Minnkota hosts its 80th annual meeting, Square Butte will host its 46th annual meeting.

At the meetings, reports on operations and year-end results will be presented, along with planned generation and transmission projects. Other business will include the election of directors and adoption of policy resolutions on issues of

importance to Minnkota and Square Butte.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. The two meetings will begin at 8:30 a.m., with Minnkota chairman Collin Jensen, Roseau, Minn., and Square Butte president Marcy Svenningsen, Valley City, N.D., presiding.

A membership social will be held Thursday, April 2, at 5:30 p.m., at the Minnkota campus, which is



located at 5301 32nd Avenue South in Grand Forks.

Minnkota's 11 member distribution cooperatives supply electricity to more than 138,000 consumers in a 35,000-square-mile area. Square Butte owns Unit 2 at the Milton R. Young Station and is governed by the cooperatives associated with Minnkota.



Minnkota hosts contractor training

Minnkota's Grand Forks Conference Center welcomed more than 200 electricians from around the region Feb. 4-5. The cooperative hosted two full days of electrical code credit classes, following similar trainings held in Fargo (Jan. 8-9), Fergus Falls (Jan. 14) and Bemidji (Jan. 23).

In partnership with its member cooperatives and associated municipalities, Minnkota has offered the annual training for 32 years. The cooperative established the program to keep area trade allies up to date on electrical code and best practices, allowing electricians to gain the required credits to renew their licenses. This year alone, nearly 650 electricians were trained across the service area.

The continuing education classes have been historically popular and Minnkota plans to offer the courses into the future.

Burgum highlights Project Tundra

North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum touted the possibilities of Project Tundra during his State of the State address on Jan. 29. The governor said the state was "investing in innovation" through the carbon capture initiative, and that it will help preserve baseload coal as a "low-cost, stable source of energy" in North Dakota.

"We have to have a stable baseload power for our nation's electrical grid, and today the nation still really depends on coal for that," Gov. Burgum told the large audience at UND's Chester Fritz Auditorium. The presentation was also livestreamed online.

The governor has been a steady proponent of carbon capture technology, signing legislation in April 2019 that created tax exemptions for the use of coal-based CO₂ in the process of enhanced oil recovery.

Cass County Electric awarded EV charging station grants

Cass County Electric Cooperative, a Minnkota member-owner, will be helping electric vehicle owners charge up faster in Fargo and West Fargo this year.

In January, the cooperative announced it had received funding to install three public DC fast charging stations in the community. The funds, awarded through the Volkswagen settlement, will cover much of the purchase and installation of stations at the following locations:

- West Acres Shopping Center
- Hornbacher's – West Fargo
- Fargo-Moorhead Convention and Visitors Bureau

Cass County Electric plans to have the three EV charging stations installed sometime this summer. They will be "pay-to-charge" through the ChargePoint network. You can find more details of the project at www.kwh.com.

Right now, Minnkota has just two fast chargers available in its service area – one at Beltrami Electric Cooperative in Bemidji and one near I-94 in Moorhead. With the awarding of Volkswagen settlement funds late last year in North Dakota, more announcements of this kind will be coming soon.

Minnkota receives credit ratings

Minnkota has received investment-grade credit ratings from Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investor Service.

S&P affirmed the cooperative's A- rating and stable outlook on Dec. 17, while Moody's affirmed its Baa2 rating and stable outlook on Feb. 10.

Minnkota receives financial ratings on an annual basis to meet the needs of its lenders and contract partners and to fulfill other requirements.

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Employees top \$50,000 in donations

Minnkota's Grand Forks employees have reached a significant milestone. They have now given more than \$50,000 in donations to charities.

The money comes from the Jeans Day Fund, which began in 2011. Jeans Day is a program in which Grand Forks employees have the privilege of wearing jeans on Fridays for a donation of \$45 a year. A \$500 donation to Red River Valley Habitat for Humanity on Jan. 30 put Grand Forks employees over the \$50,000 mark.

Earlier, those who contribute to Jeans Day made Christmas 2019 a little more comfortable for some families in the region. A special an-

nual Jeans Day holiday fundraiser resulted in \$1,325 being donated to St. Joseph's Social Care and Thrift Store of Grand Forks. That's the most employees have given to the food shelf during the holidays.

"It's tremendous," St. Joseph's executive director Mickey Munson said of the donation. "We feel honored to live in a giving community."

St. Joseph's used the money to buy food to restock its food pantry shelves. Munson said more than 8,000 pounds of food could be purchased with the donation. St. Joseph's typically stocks its shelves with items from places such as Great Plains Food Bank of



Crookston, Minn., for 16 cents a pound.

In addition to the food pantry, St. Joseph's provides emergency assistance and housing support for clients. The St. Joseph's Thrift Store has affordable clothing, toys, appliances, furniture and other household items.



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