

# VOLTS & VIEWS

APRIL 2022

**R**oseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**NORTHSTREAM**  
Powered by **Roseau Electric Cooperative** **FIBER**

## Lineworker Appreciation Day

In the forties, our lineworkers **raised lines** for farmers and rural towns in the region, **blurring the line** between the world that was and the world that could be. Now, with an energy future **on the line**, their work is as critical as ever. We're not **feeding you a line**, because here's the **bottom line**: These heroes will push through the harshest conditions to **cross the finish line** with reliable, affordable, responsible electricity for **your family line**. They put it all on the line – for you.

**April 11, 2022**  
**#ThankALineworker**

# VOLTS & VIEWS

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

**Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

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## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chairman . . . . . Mark Sax  
Vice Chairman . . . . . Jim Hallan  
Secretary-Treasurer . . . . . Wes McFarlane  
Directors . . . Roger Amundson, Brian Grafstrom  
Shawn Gust, Dale Moser,  
Mike Wahl, Ed Walsh  
Tracey Stoll . . . . . General Manager  
Ryan Severson . . . . . Assistant Manager  
Mike Millner . . . . . Line Superintendent  
Jeremy Lindemann . . . . . Member Services  
Alex McMillin . . . . . Office Manager

Regular Business Hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Phone (218) 463-1543

### OUTAGE CALLS:

Toll-Free 1-888-847-8840

## MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)

Northwest Angle, Kittson, Marshall,  
Pennington and Roseau counties  
and parts of Beltrami County:

**Ronald Ditsch – 218-779-6758**

Lake of the Woods County:

**Curt Collier – 218-966-5070**

Inspector list is subject to change at any time.

The State of Minnesota has high wiring standards, which are in the best interest of you and your family or business. Improper wiring can damage your home, your property and equipment, and injure or kill the people you love. Currently, the state does allow homeowners to do their own residential wiring; however, it is critical that the current electrical code is followed. Any time you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, Minnesota state law requires a state wiring inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. For more information visit [dli.mn.gov](http://dli.mn.gov) and go to the electrical page.

**Gopher State One Call**  
1-800-252-1166 or 811  
[www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org)



Anyone who plans to dig is required by law to notify the state of their intentions at least 48 hours in advance. All digging requires the 48-hour notification so that buried telephone line, television cable, pipelines, utility electrical lines, municipal water and sewer lines can be located to ensure that none will be severed or damaged.

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Roseau Electric Cooperative is committed to providing its member-owners low-cost, high-quality, safe and reliable electricity with friendly, efficient and knowledgeable service.

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



## From the manager

Tracey Stoll, General Manager

As much as it may be tough to do so, I hope you've been appreciating the more normal winter – temperatures and snowfall. Your cooperative's improved energy sales in the first two months of 2022, when compared to previous years, really does make a huge impact on the operating margins (see the Operating Statistics in this issue) and did make a significant impact on what your board of directors chose to do with the rates.

In February's meeting, the board voted to increase rates as detailed in the chart below. Taking into account the already booked operating margins for January, this conservative rate increase will just get us back to what we gave back in April 2021 when Minnkota's Wind Energy Surcharge came off and we chose not to incorporate the still-needed revenue in the form of a rate increase at that time.

Now, with a divided approach – increasing the main energy rate by \$0.002/kWh and increasing the facilities charge \$2/month – we're again placing more emphasis on fixed

charges, as Minnkota did in April 2021 with its introduction of a Base Demand charge on all energy on the wholesale side of the picture.

In the end, our average rural/residential member will be paying \$4/month more starting in April, netting your cooperative \$230,000 in much-needed operating margins. These margins (cash in the bank) will be used to pay the monthly bills throughout 2022. The value of those margins, after we close the books on 2022, will then be allocated back to you, the member, to be paid back, based on our current schedule, fifteen years from now.

### Thank you!

Thank you to retiring directors Roger Amundson (serving 21 years) and Wes McFarlane (serving 8+ years) for their valuable service to this cooperative! And, for the work you do in all circumstances and seasons, thank you Ralph, Marc, Chad N., Ross, Jedd, Justin, Chad G., Devyn, Neal, Chad J., Luke and Dillion!

## Change in Rates

(effective April 1, 2022)

**Facilities Charge (all rate classes)**

**+ \$2**

(e.g. Rural-Residential moves from \$45 to \$47 per month)

**Main kWh Rate (all rate classes)**

**+ \$0.002/kWh**

(e.g. Rural-Residential moves from \$0.126/kWh to \$0.128/kWh)

**Off-peak kWh Rate**

**no change**

**Demand Rate**

**+ \$1/kW**

(Large Commercial only: moves from \$9/kW to \$10/kW 30-day peak)

# From the line

Mike Millner, Line Superintendent



I am hoping winter will be over soon. We are getting a nice slow melt. I have to say, Mother Nature has gotten back at us this winter with all this arctic cold and above-normal snowfall. I had to switch gears on some of the projects that were planned to complete this last winter because we were fighting snow depths. Our crews have managed to hang about 50 miles of fiber this winter. If you are an avid snowmobiler, this was a great year to be out and about. Let me know if you have come across any guy wires that may need a new guy guard or junction box that needs an antenna whip. During spring breakup, I'm going to have the guys install new warning and danger labels on our underground equipment, hopefully making them more visible to the public.

Our construction season is just around the corner. We have a very busy season planned, with work plan projects, new installs and fiber buildouts. We have to plan ahead to keep things moving along smoothly. If you have a project that will need to be completed this summer, give us a heads up. One more reminder – make sure you contact Gopher State One Call before doing any excavation projects. It's easy and it's the law!

**Luke Holland,  
lineman, climbs a  
pole to install fiber.**

I would like to recognize and thank our linemen for all the hard work they do during the year keeping you warm or cool with the lights on. Monday, April 11, is National Line-

man Appreciation Day. When you run into one of our linemen in the field or on the street, let them know how much you appreciate them.

Until we meet again...Mike



# YOUR CO-OP CELEBRATES ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY ON EARTH DAY

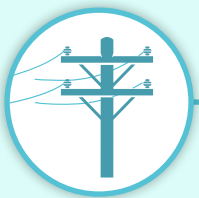
Environmental stewardship is a core value of Roseau Electric Cooperative and our wholesale power provider Minnkota Power Cooperative. As local energy providers, we operate facilities that run 24 hours a day in the communities where we live, work, raise families and enjoy the great outdoors. Simply put, we have a personal stake in ensuring our air, land and water stay in pristine condition for future generations.

On Earth Day, April 22, we're reflecting on the ways we've helped make the generation and delivery of electricity more responsible, while also helping you – our member – use energy more wisely.



## GENERATION

Roseau Electric Cooperative utilizes a diverse mix of energy resources, including coal, wind and hydro power, to meet your 24/7 needs. About 42% of the generation capacity available is derived from carbon-free resources. Efforts are currently being explored to further reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at the coal-based Milton R. Young Station through Project Tundra. The project would install technologies capable of removing approximately 90% of the CO<sub>2</sub> from either generator at the facility. The facility already operates cleanly thanks to \$425 million in emissions control technologies, while strict reclamation standards require that all land mined must be restored to original condition or better.



## POWER DELIVERY

The routing of power lines takes into account environmentally sensitive areas and the migratory patterns of birds. Through its blink outage mitigation efforts, Minnkota has installed technologies on its power lines to help prevent birds from perching and other animals from climbing poles where they may encounter danger. Other technologies are installed when necessary to make lines more visible for birds. When viable, Roseau Electric Cooperative lines are converted from overhead to underground in an effort to limit power outages and reduce environmental impacts.



## AT HOME

Roseau Electric Cooperative has the energy experts available to help you save money and use electricity wisely. In addition to advice and energy-saving tips, you also have access to great rebates on highly-efficient technologies. This includes at-home electric vehicle chargers and highly efficient heating and cooling systems, like air-source heat pumps. Members who wish to receive up to 100% of their electricity from renewable resources can also sign up for the Infinity Renewable Energy program. Check out our website for the latest incentives and offerings.

# April is National Safe Digging Month

If you are planning an outdoor project, don't forget to **CALL BEFORE YOU DIG.**



That's right. Digging safety is so vitally important that there is an entire month dedicated to it. Your yard may be hiding underground utility pipes, cables and wires, so if you're planning a spring project that involves a shovel or excavator, it's critical to call 8-1-1 before you start. A quick call can keep your project on schedule, your family safe and your neighbors connected to the utilities they need.

## Calling is critical

Installing a mailbox?  
**CALL 8-1-1.**



Planting a garden?  
**CALL 8-1-1.**



Building a deck?  
**CALL 8-1-1.**



## The process is easy

### 1 NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or submit a request online two to three days before you begin. The utilities affected by your digging will be notified of your project.



### 2 WAIT

It may take two to three days for utilities to send a locator to mark any underground lines.



### 3 CONFIRM

Compare the marks on your yard to the list of utilities contacted by 8-1-1. Confirm that all entities have responded to the request.



### 4 RESPECT

Protect and follow the utility markers – the flags and/or paint will remain important guides throughout your project.



### 5 DIG CAREFULLY

Be sure to avoid digging within two feet of the markers on all sides. If you can't, you'll need to consider moving your project.



Scan the code with your phone to submit a request online, or visit [call811.com](http://call811.com).



## Passing down the family fudge cake recipe?

Your granddaughter is now old enough to learn the secret behind your famous fudge cake. With every stir, you're helping her become the family's next brilliant baker.

It's a powerful experience, powered by 3 cents of countertop mixer energy.

That's the value of electricity.



# Plant Trees Safely

Before you dig, call 811 to locate buried utility lines.

## LOW TREE ZONE

Avoid planting within 20 ft. of power lines. If planting is unavoidable, only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 ft. or less.

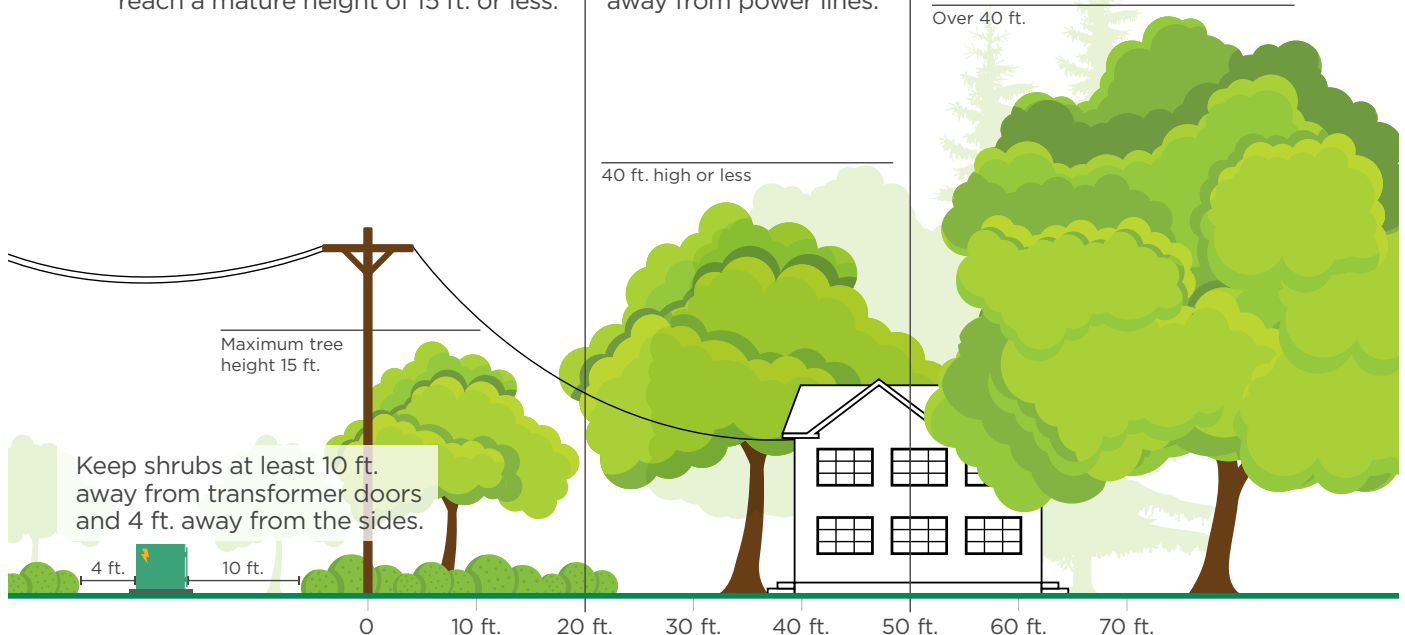
## MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Plant medium trees (under 40 ft. when mature) at least 25 ft. away from power lines.

## LARGE TREE ZONE

Plant large trees (over 40 ft. when mature) at least 50 ft. away from power lines.

Over 40 ft.



# HAPPY Easter

Our offices will be closed  
**Friday, April 15**  
in observance of  
**Good Friday**

*If you experience an outage,  
call 1-888-847-8840.*

**NORTHSTREAM  
FIBER**

Powered by **Roseau Electric Cooperative**

*Internet, TV and voice services  
through the fastest and most reliable  
network in the region.*

218-463-1543 | 888-847-8840 | [www.roseauelectric.com](http://www.roseauelectric.com) | Email Stacy Rose at [rsrose@roseauelectric.com](mailto:rsrose@roseauelectric.com)

## PROBLEMS PAYING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?

**Energy assistance may be available!**

If you are receiving a low income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, the following 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  
[nwcaa.org](http://nwcaa.org)

**Bi-County Cap, Inc.**  
6603 Bemidji Ave. N  
Bemidji, MN 56601-8669  
(218) 751-4631

## OPERATING STATISTICS

	Monthly		Year to Date	
	Feb. 2021	Feb. 2022	Feb. 2021	Feb. 2022
Members	6,566	6,629	6,566	6,629
kWh purchased	16,848,517	17,370,156	33,314,376	36,809,452
% change		3.10%		10.49%
Revenue	1,874,666	1,894,948	3,730,998	4,020,029
Cost of power	1,123,885	1,170,422	2,230,056	2,425,470
Other expenses	541,115	545,753	1,199,497	1,141,259
Operating margins	209,666	178,773	301,445	453,300
Nonoperating margins	6,050	13,004	20,399	38,539
Patronage dividends	-	-	-	-
Total margins	215,716	191,777	321,844	491,839

## member connection

### ENERGY TIP

This spring, consider using a rain barrel to save energy. Rain barrels capture rainwater from a roof that can be used later for watering your lawn, garden or indoor plants.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



### DATES TO REMEMBER

**April 15**  
Good Friday;  
Office is closed

**April 17**  
Easter

**April 21**  
Electric bill is due

### OFFICE HOURS

**Monday – Friday**  
**8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**  
**Phone 218-463-1543**

### AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE NUMBER

**Toll-free 1-888-847-8840**  
*(main outage call center)*

### CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

**1-800-252-1166 or 811**

### PAY BY PHONE

**1-877-999-3412**

### SMARTHUB

<https://roseauelectric.smarthub.coop/>

### WEBSITE

[www.roseauelectric.com](http://www.roseauelectric.com)



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK  
TO STAY UP TO DATE!

@RoseauElectricCooperativeInc

# ANATOMY OF A LINEWORKER

It takes brains, brawn and bravery to be a lineworker for a rural electric cooperative – and it also takes a whole lot of equipment. When it comes to building and maintaining our power lines, Roseau Electric Cooperative always puts safety first. Our lineworkers sometimes carry more than 50 pounds of protective equipment and gear as they climb a power pole, depending on what is needed for the job.

Even before they think about picking up additional tools, a lineworker will start with these basic accessories to keep them safe and efficient.

## HAND LINE

This is a lineworker's lifeline. Complete with steel clips and a pulley block, this rope, which hangs from a pole's cross arm, is strong enough for any job – from the routine hoisting of equipment to lifesaving missions.

## HARD HAT

A hard hat provides insulated protection against electrical hazards and shields the head from blows and falling objects.

## WOOD POLE FALL PROTECTION BELT

Before a lineworker starts climbing a pole, they loop a safety strap around the pole and rehook the strap to their equipment belt. This serves as an added safety precaution and allows the lineworker to work with both hands free.

## DITTY BAG

This canvas bag hangs from the equipment belt and holds the materials that lineworkers need at the ready for any number of jobs.

## BOOTS

These boots help prevent lineworkers from gaffing themselves in the leg. Serrated heels provide a better grip and steel shanks provide extra support on the pole.

## HAND LINE BLOCK

Lineworkers can't carry everything up on a pole, and the pulley block – the signature component of the hand line – is used to raise and lower heavy equipment.

## TOOL POUCH

This bag hangs from the back of the equipment belt and carries a wide variety of tools, such as pliers and wrenches.

## GAFFS

Razor-sharp steel points are strapped to boots for climbing poles. Only the tips dig into wood, helping lineworkers climb more safely and efficiently.

