

AUGUST 2022

VOLTS & VIEWS

 **Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

NORTHSTREAM
FIBER
Powered by Roseau Electric Cooperative



Dillion Thompson, journeyman lineworker, replacing a pole-top insulator after a thunderstorm

VOLTS & VIEWS

AUGUST 2022 – Vol. 67, No. 8

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.

1107 3rd Street N.E.

The Volts & Views (USPS-663420) is published monthly by Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 100, Roseau, MN 56751. Periodicals postage paid at Roseau, MN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ROSEAU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., P.O. Box 100, Roseau, MN 56751.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chairman Mark Sax
Vice Chairman Jim Hallan
Secretary-Treasurer Mike Wahl
Directors . . . Jim Christianson, Brian Grafstrom
Shawn Gust, Dale Moser,
Joe Tesarek, 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 and go to the electrical page.

Gopher State One Call
1-800-252-1166 or 811
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

Today, we held our board meeting (on a Thursday, during fair week). The day of the week – Thursday – being the odd part, with our monthly meeting usually falling on a Wednesday. Even though a week earlier in the month than normal, we try each year to accommodate lunch for the directors at the 4-H stand at the Roseau County Fair. Besides taking care of a function normally offered to the directors, we patronize a good local organization and open ourselves up to some good member contact by being visible in a well-attended public venue. This contact with the public is continued tonight as Ryan and I take our turn in our booth at the fair. Communication with our membership and community is something we highly value, and we really see it at the Roseau County Fair. It's not all about the free giveaway!

In other board happenings, the financials presented today, and copied elsewhere in this publication, show we've made it through the first half of the year with very healthy operation margins. These margins come from a combination of higher-than-expected energy sales early in the year, and our small rate increase implemented in April. Although July-September are usually rough on the margins, we expect to finish the year strong, allocating healthy dividends back to the membership.

We cover a lot of information in our meetings, but one topic I'll note in closing concerns our Northwest Angle membership. These members have endured so much through the last few years including COVID, and now a lake level that's exceeding all expectations. I was able to attend a meeting in Warroad a couple of weeks ago, well attended by residents of our lake communities and our government representatives (local, state, county, and federal). We were able to listen firsthand to reports from NWA residents. One result, I'm hopeful, will be to establish a more common point of contact for where help/assistance would be sourced. We have to believe the Lake of the Woods lake level will go down. Until then, as the cooperative that serves the electricity to this remote area of Minnesota, we are committed to continuing our trips north, through Canada, to offer what maintenance we can to our infrastructure with the aim to keep our members there in power. We have already lost that capability for a couple of our members because of fully submerged infrastructure, and may lose more before we're through this. We know, once the lake lowers, that there will be substantial work to be done in restoring the reliability and longevity of our equipment. If you should have any questions concerning current and future efforts, please call me or come in for a visit.

From the line

Mike Millner, Line Superintendent



We have managed to miss most of the larger storms so far this summer. Our neighbors to the south haven't been quite so lucky. I ended up sending a crew down to Wild Rice Electric Cooperative to help out with their storm damage for a few days. July has always been a bad month for storms. I remember at least a dozen bad July storms over my lineworker career, during which we had to help out one of our neighboring co-ops or we were hit ourselves with several days of repairs. While we are talking about storms and outages — are you prepared for a long-term outage? Do you have a standby generator? Do you have bottled water and canned food on hand? With a little preparation, long-term outages do not have to be quite so painful. Also, if you need a double throw meter box, give me a call and

I will get you on my list. Hopefully we will get them in before the end of this summer. Supply chain issues are still definitely a problem.

Our crews have been very busy with line changes, new services and installing fiber-optic cable. We continue to have issues at the NWA due to high water flooding. We have a lot of our equipment submerged under water now. Most of it still operating. I have my fingers crossed that we won't have anymore high winds on the lake until the water subsides, but unfortunately that will take several months.

The way our spring had started out, with it being so wet, I didn't think the crops would be as nice as they are looking. I know my wife and I are very pleased as to how our garden has turned out. We are eating lots of fresh vegetables and our strawberries, asparagus and

raspberries just exploded. On that note, the fair is behind us now and we can expect snow any time...just kidding!

I have a few quotes from Winston Churchill that I would love to share with you. I'm kind of a history buff and admire strong people in history that have taken a stand that changed the world. During WWII when Germany was attacking Great Britain, Winston tells his people: "We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills, we shall never surrender!" and "If you're going through hell, keep going." With that being said let's take a stand to make this world a better place, even if it's a tough road to take.

Until we meet again...Mike



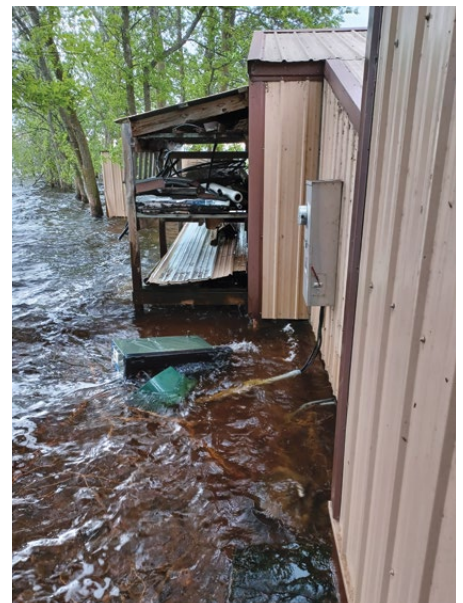
Primary voltage junction box submerged in water



A member's dock several inches under the water



Transformer and meter pedestal waterlogged

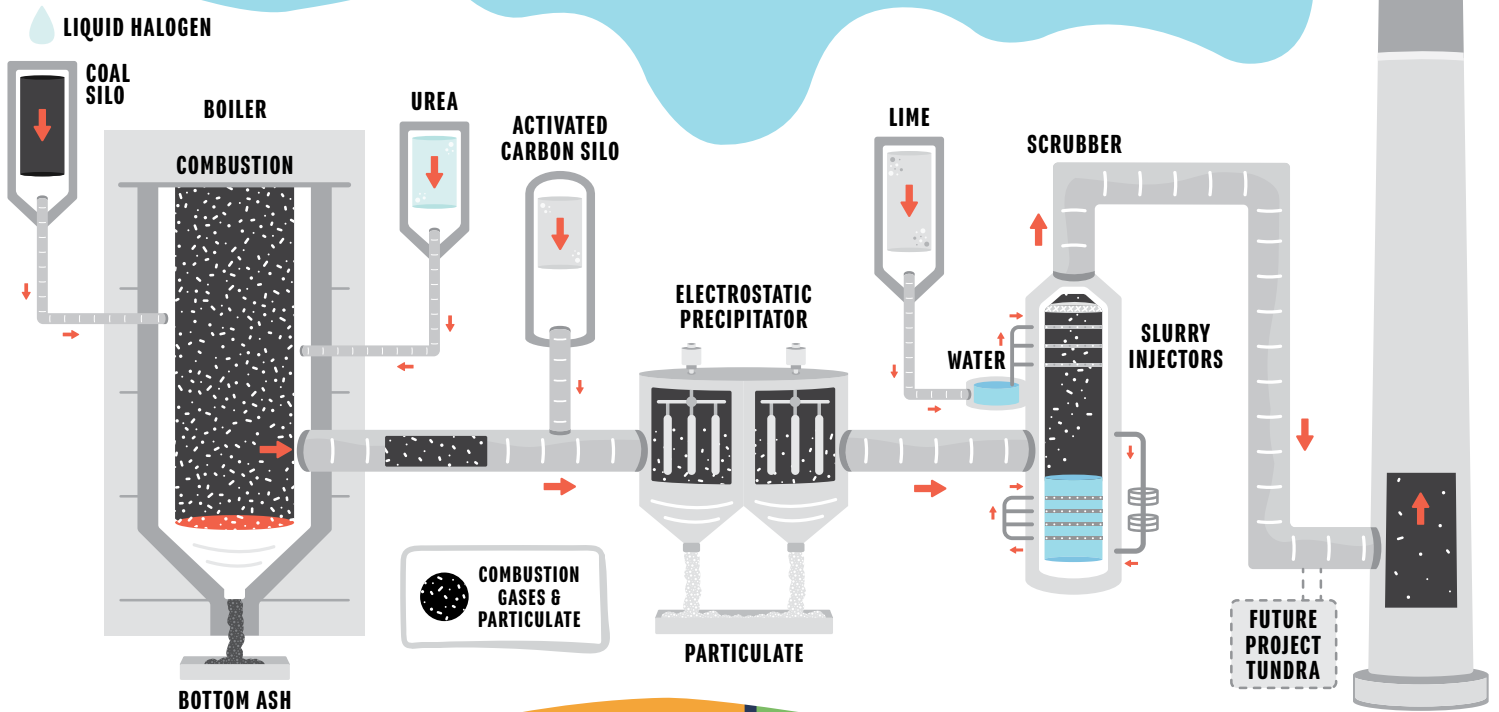


Transformer that floated off its base, pulling the conduit away from the meter disconnect

REDUCING EMISSIONS

Roseau Electric Cooperative and Minnkota Power Cooperative, the region's wholesale power provider, are committed to maintaining a clean and healthy environment. One of the greatest success stories in recent years is the significant reduction in emissions levels at the coal-based Milton R. Young Station. From 2007 to 2011, about \$425 million was invested in cutting-edge air quality technologies. Efforts are also underway to advance innovative carbon dioxide (CO₂) capture systems at the Young Station – an initiative known as Project Tundra.

While about 42% of our electric generating capacity comes from carbon-free resources, coal-generated electricity remains vital to ensuring reliability and resiliency of electric service. The Young Station operates at high production levels throughout the year, including during extreme hot and cold weather periods. And thanks to technology advancement, the energy produced is cleaner than ever before.



MERCURY REMOVAL

Liquid halogen and activated carbon

A combination of liquid halogen and activated carbon absorb mercury from the flue gas. Fly ash and mercury will be removed by the electrostatic precipitator later in the emissions control process.

NITROGEN OXIDES (NO_x) REDUCTION

Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction (SNCR) and Over-Fire Air (OFA)

The Young Station uses a combination of SNCR and OFA to reduce NO_x emissions. SNCR includes injecting urea into the boiler to break down the NO_x, while OFA includes diverting a portion of the combustion air from the cyclones to limit the formation of NO_x in the boiler.

PARTICULATE MATTER (PM) REMOVAL

Electrostatic precipitator

The flue gas passes through electrodes, which charge particulates (like dust) either positively or negatively. The charged particles are then attracted to collector plates carrying the opposite charge and removed.

SULFUR DIOXIDE (SO₂) REMOVAL

Scrubber

When the flue gas passes through the scrubber, it flows against multiple levels of spray nozzles containing lime slurry. A chemical reaction occurs between the sulfur dioxide in the flue gas and the lime slurry, effectively capturing the SO₂ and forming a common mineral called gypsum.

The value of an electric water heater

Did you know that around 20% of your home's energy may be used for water heating? Make sure you have the most efficient and cost-effective technology on the market by upgrading to a large-capacity electric water heater. They can save you money, you'll never worry about running out of warm water and Roseau Electric Cooperative can help get you started!

How does it work?

A large-capacity electric water heater can be set up on Roseau Electric Cooperative's off-peak program to draw heat energy during lower-demand times of day (like overnight). That off-peak electricity is delivered at a special reduced rate.

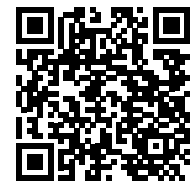
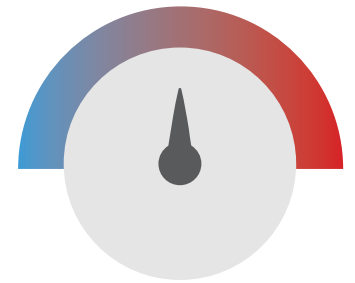
Your water is warmed inside a specially designed tank that restricts heat loss over the entire day. It's ready to deploy hot water at the turn of a knob or the press of a button any time you need it. With tank sizes from 80 to 100 gallons or larger, your family will always have plenty of water for every bath or dish cycle.

What do I save?

On top of the super-low off-peak electricity rate – nearly half as much as the standard rate – you can save even more by taking advantage of Roseau Electric Cooperative's incredible rebates, which could amount to hundreds of dollars off the cost of your project. Since the system runs entirely on consistently priced electricity, these water heaters will also help protect you from forever-fluctuating propane and natural gas prices.

You'll ultimately consume less, save more, and electrify your future. That's the value of a large-capacity water heater.

If you want to learn how Roseau Electric Cooperative can help you save with an electric water heater, call us at **(218) 463-1543** or visit roseauelectric.com.



See the video at
ValueofElectricity.com



AVOID UTILITY SCAMS

Scammers will threaten you with everything from shutting off your power to your home to legal action. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.



Our employees will never show up at your door to demand payment.

Never give personal information to an unknown caller or visitor. Our representatives have access to the details they need to service your account.

Demands for immediate payment by wire transfer, cryptocurrency, gift cards or cash reload cards should immediately raise red flags.

Lifeline & Telephone Assistance Plan

You may be eligible for assistance on your telephone or internet bill if you receive benefits from certain low-income assistance programs. There are two programs:

Minnesota's Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP)

Offers a monthly credit of \$10 on your landline telephone service plan. You may receive the TAP credit on one landline per household.

The Federal Lifeline Program

Offers a monthly discount of \$5.25 on some landline and wireless telephone service plans. Lifeline also offers discounts of \$9.25 on some broadband internet service plans. You may receive the Lifeline discount on one service per household. The definition of a "household" is anyone living at an address including children, relatives, people not related to you, etc. who share income(s) and household expenses.

Fill out the applications found at northstreamfiber.com/lifeline-telephone-assistance-plan.

If applying for the TAP or Federal Lifeline Program discount, mail the application to the address below:

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc. | PO Box 100 | Roseau, MN 56751-0100



GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE

Aug. 31, 2022

To be considered at the September 2022 meeting, grant applications must be received by **Aug. 31, 2022**.

Grant applications are available at the REC office or by visiting our website at roseauelectric.com.

HAPPY
Labor Day

Roseau Electric offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 5, for Labor Day

In case of outages, call toll-free 1-888-847-8840



An evening of anniversary dancing at home?

You're celebrating 10 years together with a home-cooked meal and a playlist of love songs. As you clean up, "your" song comes on – it's the first dance all over again.

It's a powerful experience, powered by just 1 cent of smart speaker energy.

That's the value of electricity.

1¢



member connection

ENERGY TIP

Skip the dryer and solar power your laundry. Go outside and use an old-fashioned clothesline. There's nothing better than free energy from the sun. But make sure there is no rain in the forecast!



DATES TO REMEMBER

August 21

Electric bill is due

August 27

Grygla Fall Festival

September 5

Labor Day – Office is closed

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

OPERATING STATISTICS

	Monthly		Year to Date	
	June 2021	June 2022	June 2021	June 2022
Members	6,553	6,631	6,553	6,631
kWh purchased	9,708,944	9,425,273	77,062,223	84,690,713
% change		-2.92%		9.90%
Revenue	1,326,794	1,299,908	9,274,553	9,967,961
Cost of power	811,884	797,566	5,684,302	6,087,952
Other expenses	564,000	520,059	3,244,006	3,322,825
Operating margins	(49,090)	(17,717)	346,245	557,184
Nonoperating margins	11,391	18,663	92,060	27,599
Patronage dividends	-	-	179,055	169,622
Total margins	(37,699)	946	617,360	754,405



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
TO STAY UP TO DATE!


@RoseauElectricCooperativeInc




This is your region.

These are your resources.

**This is your reliable,
affordable, cleaner-than-
ever electricity.**



ALL IN



ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE ENERGY

SEE VIDEO