

SEPTEMBER 2022

VOLTS & VIEWS

 **Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

NORTHSTREAM 
Powered by  Roseau Electric Cooperative **FIBER**

Roseau Bus Tour

Roseau Electric Cooperative members enjoyed an educational and entertaining bus tour to Minnkota headquarters, the power plant in Center, N.D., and the BNI coal mine. Consider joining us next year!



VOLTS & VIEWS

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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 – 651-368-2195

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.



There is still time to add off-peak!

Jeremy Lindemann, Director of Member Services

As summer is winding down here and the evenings are getting cooler, you can almost feel fall in the air. It reminds me that soon it will be heating season! The good news is that there is still time to enjoy the warmer weather and get things done around the house before winter hits.

One of the top things on your list should be to get that off-peak heating system installed, ensuring you have the most comfortable, economic, and efficient heating system possible for your home. With Roseau Electric's Power Savers and electric-heat rebates, it is now even more affordable.

Now, the term off-peak heating system may sound generic, but there are several heating systems that will work perfectly with your budget and provide maximum comfort when the winter days get long and cold.

One such off-peak system is an air-source heat pump paired with an electric plenum heater and a gas furnace. This is a three-stage system and here is how it works.

The first stage is an air-source heat pump. It looks just like a central air conditioner but can also provide heat due to a reversing valve that changes the flow of the refrigerant, which allows heat to be transferred from the air outside to inside the home. Air-source heat pumps heat and cool your home with 200% efficiency. Some can heat all the way down to 18 degrees below zero! And as for economics, you would have to buy your propane for 75 cents a gallon to equal the efficiency of a heat pump on the off-peak rate.

The second stage kicks in when the temperature drops below zero, and the heat pump can't quite get enough heat out of the outside air. This is when the electric plenum heater takes over and starts to blend in 5 kilowatts (kW) of electric off-peak heat at a time to satisfy the home's thermostat temperature setting, providing maximum comfort. A 100% efficient electric plenum heater on Roseau Electric Cooperative's off-peak rate of 6.2 cents is the equivalent of buying propane for \$1.40 per gallon on a 95% efficient gas furnace.

The third stage is when off-peak control is needed due to high energy prices on the grid or high demand due to extreme cold temperatures or the lack of renewable energy. At this time, the gas furnace provides heat to the home during the off-peak control period. Last winter, there were 207 hours of load control out of the 10,000 hours of the heating season!

This system also gives you, the member, the choice to select between what technology is the most economic at the time, while always having 100% comfort in the home no matter what Old Man Winter throws at us.

When I am asked often what the best heating/cooling system for my home is, I recommend an air-source heat pump with an electric plenum heater and a gas furnace or an air-source heat pump with a Steffes all-electric storage furnace. Stay tuned for future articles on that technology!

Until then, we will keep the lights on for you!

Keep the lights on during the energy transition

BY JIM MATHESON AND MAC MCLENNAN

Dozens of states in the most powerful nation in the world may struggle to keep the lights on this summer.

It doesn't have to be this way. But absent a shift in policy and coordination between federal and state governments, this is the energy reality our nation will face for years to come.

Reliable electricity has been a staple in America for more than half a century. But that's no longer a certainty. Organizations across the nation have sounded the alarm: reliable electricity may be in jeopardy this summer. That's inexcusable.

Minnkota Power Cooperative utilizes a diverse mix of coal, wind and hydro resources to meet the 24/7 needs of electricity consumers in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. While this power portfolio is strong, Minnkota does not operate on the electric grid alone. Utilities across the Upper Midwest and down to Louisiana are interconnected through the larger Mid-continent Independent System Operator (MISO) grid. Challenges in other areas of this system can and do have impacts on Minnkota and its members.

MISO expects to face a high risk of reliability challenges during both "normal and extreme conditions." If demand for electricity exceeds the available supply, MISO could implement controlled power outages to avoid catastrophic damage to the power grid.

Some are quick to blame these new-found reliability threats on changing or more extreme weather patterns. That's part of the story, but there's a deeper problem that must be acknowledged.

Spurred by policy and market factors, the ongoing energy transition has prioritized premature baseload coal and nuclear plant closures without considering the collective impact on the power grid and the availability of feasible technology to fully replace them. That's proving to be a dangerous misstep.

In MISO alone, 3,200 megawatts of electric generating capacity have shut

down in the past year. That's enough to keep the lights on in 2.8 million homes. And electricity demand is forecast to rise by nearly 2% this summer.

To put it simply, new power-generating projects in some of the largest electricity markets haven't caught up with plant closures—jeopardizing reliability in the process.

Policymakers should recalibrate their focus on a common-sense energy transition that doesn't risk reliability or punish low-income families and our economy. Those choices don't need to be at odds.

Driven by a focus on keeping the lights on, America's electric cooperatives have demonstrated what a responsible energy transition can look like. Electric co-ops substantially lowered their carbon emissions by 23% between 2005 and 2020, the equivalent of taking nearly 9 million cars off the road. They've also invested in energy innovation technologies to help meet tomorrow's electricity needs with speed and flexibility.

In Minnkota's case, approximately 42% of its generation capacity is already derived from carbon-free resources. The cooperative is also working to advance Project Tundra – an effort to build one of the world's largest carbon capture systems at a coal-based power plant in North Dakota. If the proposed project moves ahead, it would help retain a reliable and resilient power generator, while also significantly reducing Minnkota's carbon emissions.

The energy transition must consider threats to reliability and focus on the importance of allowing adequate time, technology development and the construction of desperately needed transmission lines to move electricity within regional markets. It is overambitious to believe this can happen by the current federal target of 2035.

Today's energy policy decisions will determine whether the threat of grid reliability challenges is our new energy reality. As state and federal policymakers re-evaluate their energy transition pro-

posals in the wake of sobering summer reliability challenges, they should:

- Prioritize an adequate supply of always-available power resources to balance the increasing reliance on renewable energy.
- Promote the development of new transmission lines to carry electricity from where it's generated to where it's most needed.
- Facilitate coordinated, consistent, and timely agency permitting to speed the construction and maintenance of electric transmission and other critical grid infrastructure.
- Provide electric cooperatives access to the same level of energy innovation incentives that for-profit utilities have enjoyed for years.
- When you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop digging. Failure is not an acceptable option for the consumers and communities we serve.



Jim Matheson is CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association that represents the nation's more than 900 not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. He previously served seven terms as a U.S. representative from Utah.



Mac McLennan is CEO of Minnkota Power Cooperative, the wholesale electricity provider for 11 member cooperatives in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.

THE 3 **T**S OF THE ENERGY TRANSITION

The energy industry is in the midst of a major transition and Roseau Electric Cooperative is working to ensure its members maintain access to reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity. As changes are made to the power grid, it's important that reliability is prioritized and baseload resources – like coal, natural gas and nuclear power plants – are preserved to provide 24/7 production. While renewable resources are a growing part of our nation's energy mix, they are currently not positioned to meet the continuous demand for electricity.

As we look to move to a lower-carbon future without sacrificing reliability or affordability, we must consider the three Ts of the energy transition – technology, transmission and time.

TECHNOLOGY



Major breakthroughs in technology will be needed to significantly reduce carbon emissions while ensuring power grid dependability. With coal and natural gas still required to maintain reliability for the foreseeable future, efforts to advance carbon capture technology should be supported. Roseau Electric Cooperative and its wholesale power provider, Minnkota Power Cooperative, are evaluating Project Tundra, which would capture carbon emissions from a large coal-based power plant in North Dakota.

For renewable resources, there will need to be substantial advancements in battery capabilities, which would allow electricity to be stored and released when the wind isn't blowing or the sun isn't shining. This technology currently has operational limitations and is only able to discharge power for 2-4 hours at a time, when multiple days of storage/discharge are needed.

TRANSMISSION

Transmission lines also play a key role in ensuring reliability during the energy transition process. Energy often needs to be carried long distances to reach its users. Renewable generation facilities are typically located in remote areas that are far away from demand centers. Adding more high-voltage transmission infrastructure would allow more energy to be generated at those sites. Adding and updating existing lines can also eliminate any congestion on the lines that may cause energy generation to be reduced or be disrupted. Stronger transmission connections across the United States will help bolster reliability now and in the future.



TIME

Perhaps the most important component of a successful energy transition is time. Developing new technology that is sustainable and reliable takes time. Building and updating transmission lines to transport energy takes time. Transitioning to new energy generation resources without jeopardizing the reliability of the grid will take time.

Sudden, extreme changes to our energy systems without proper planning has the potential for severe consequences. Recognizing that the energy transition will take decades helps ensure reliability and affordability can be maintained for the benefits of our local communities.



LOOK UP FOR POWER LINES THIS HARVEST SEASON

Harvest is one of the busiest times of the year in our region, but no one is ever too busy to be reminded about the importance of electrical safety. Don't fall powerless to power lines by not taking the time to look up for potential hazards. Here are some simple things to keep everyone safe this harvest season.

LOCATE AND IDENTIFY	WORK AT A SAFE DISTANCE	LOWER BEFORE YOU GO	STAY AWAY AND STAY CALM
<p>Make sure you, your family and your farm workers know where power lines are located on your property. Everyone should know the height of all your farm equipment and how high nearby power lines are to prevent accidental contact. If you need to work close to an energized line, use a spotter to make sure you and your equipment remain safe. Non-metallic items such as lumber, rubber and hay can conduct electricity depending on the dampness or dust contamination.</p>	<p>It is best to always assume a power line is energized and dangerous. Make sure everyone understands that any contact with these lines creates a path to the ground for electricity and carries the potential for a serious - even fatal - accident. A good rule of thumb is to stay at least 10 feet away from all power lines.</p>	<p>Lowering your equipment to the lowest possible setting is one way to not fall powerless to power lines. Make sure that extensions, portable augers and other equipment are under 14 feet tall before transporting. Wind or uneven ground can cause you to lose control of extended equipment and possibly make contact with a power line.</p>	<p>If your equipment ever comes in contact with an electric pole, do not get out and examine it. Call 9-1-1 and wait until the line has been de-energized before exiting your equipment. If your equipment catches fire or it is no longer safe to remain inside, do not touch any part of it as you attempt to exit. Cross your arms over your chest to protect yourself from creating any electrical pathways and jump clear of the equipment with both feet together. Bunny hop as far as you can away from your equipment keeping your feet together.</p>



ROSEAU COUNTY FAIR PRIZE WINNERS



ELECTRIC GRILL
Scott Johnson



FRY DADDY
Tyrone Abrahamson

WAFFLE MAKER
Elaine Naslund

SKILLET
Julie Moser

CROCK POT
Bev Torkelson

Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to all who stopped by our booth!

COLD WEATHER RULE

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule (216B.096), electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between Oct. 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and ALL of the following statements apply:

- Your household income is at or below 50% of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by Roseau Electric Cooperative or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from Roseau Electric Cooperative.

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule does not completely stop winter disconnects.

Before disconnecting electric service to residential members between Oct. 1 and April 30, Roseau Electric Cooperative must provide:

- A 30-day notice of disconnection;
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities;
- A list of local energy assistance providers;
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection; and
- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 60% of the state median income (\$65,964 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2023.

To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance.

Northwest Community Action
218-528-3258 or 800-568-5329

Bi-County Cap, Inc.
218-751-4631

Roseau Electric Cooperative exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact us immediately to work out a mutually agreeable payment plan.

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

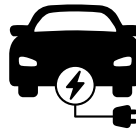
Bi-County Cap, Inc.
6603 Bemidji Ave. N
Bemidji, MN 56601-8669
(218) 751-4631

NOTICE TO COGENERATORS

In compliance with Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc., adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc., is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers who satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc., is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by the Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc. board. Interested members should contact Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 100, Roseau, MN 56751 or call 218-463-1543.



13¢



Driver's license test in an electric vehicle?

You've helped her through hours of practice – now it's time for her driving test. After five miles around town, the evaluator gives her the green light to a license.

It's a powerful experience, powered by just 13 cents of electric vehicle energy.

That's the value of electricity.



OPERATING STATISTICS

	Monthly		Year to Date	
	July 2021	July 2022	July 2021	July 2022
Members	6,614	6,641	6,614	6,641
kWh purchased	10,651,181	9,866,338	87,713,404	94,557,051
% change		-7.37%		7.80%
Revenue	1,424,283	1,364,256	10,698,835	11,332,217
Cost of power	853,230	813,539	6,537,532	6,901,492
Other expenses	635,959	638,854	3,879,964	3,961,678
Operating margins	(64,906)	(88,137)	281,339	469,047
Nonoperating margins	9,037	13,584	226,443	41,060
Patronage dividends	-	-	53,708	169,747
Total margins	(55,869)	(74,553)	561,490	679,854

member connection

ENERGY TIP

Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money. Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.

Source: energy.gov



DATES TO REMEMBER

September 21
Electric bill is due

October 18
Co-op Day

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



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
TO STAY UP TO DATE!

@RoseauElectricCooperativeInc

Co-op Appreciation Day



ROSEAU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Tuesday, October 18

Serving lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please join us for turkey on a bun, beans, chips & cookies.

Sign up for prizes and enjoy visiting with your co-op friends and neighbors!