

VOLTS & VIEWS

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Power over the market

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VOLTS & VIEWS

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

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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 – 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.

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES

Bryden Johnson – Fiber Technician

Bryden Johnson has been hired as a full-time fiber technician, after working here part time last summer. He graduated from Roseau High School in 2020 and is a student at Itasca Community College. He enjoys playing hockey, fishing and just being in the outdoors.



Mary Preteau – Member Services

Mary Preteau has been hired as our member services representative. Mary is a Roseau native, graduating from Roseau High School and Moorhead State University. She previously worked at the Roseau High School principal's office. She and her husband have two daughters. Mary enjoys being active and spending time with friends and family.



ROSEAU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LEGISLATORS

Federal legislators

President Joe Biden

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
www.whitehouse.gov
president@whitehouse.gov
202-456-1111

Senator Tina Smith

720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.smith.senate.gov
202-224-5641

Senator Amy Klobuchar

425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.klobuchar.senate.gov
202-224-3244
1-888-224-9043 (Minnesota office)
Fax: 202-228-2186

Congressman Pete Stauber

126 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
www.stauber.house.gov
202-225-6211

Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach

1237 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
www.fischbach.house.gov
202-225-2165
Fax: 202-225-1593

State of Minnesota legislators

Governor Tim Walz

Capitol Building, Room 130
75 Rev. Dr. Martin
Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
800-657-3717
www.mn.gov/governor

Senator Mark Johnson

95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3111
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-5782
sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn
www.senate.mn/members

Representative John Burkel

309 State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-9635
rep.john.burkel@house.mn
www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members

Representative Matt Grossell

227 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-4265
rep.matt.grossell@house.mn
www.house.leg.state.mn.us/members

ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVES



Business incentives for retrofit and new construction:

- LED lighting and controls
- HVAC and geothermal
- Chillers and refrigeration
- Food service equipment
- VFD motors

Building a New Home?

Roseau Electric offers a FREE electric water heater:

- Large capacity: 80- or 100-gallon
- Must be on "off-peak" – under the daily cycled load group category
- Incentives are excluded from the free water heater program



Sample 2021 PowerSavers/Powerful Value/REC Residential Electric Incentives for Members
(Incentive shall not exceed 50% of project costs)

Equipment	Specifications	Incentive
LED Screw-in Bulb	40-60W equivalent incandescent. ENERGY STAR®-recommended.	50% of the purchase price up to \$2/bulb
LED Screw-in Bulb	65W or greater equivalent incandescent. ENERGY STAR®-recommended.	50% of the purchase price up to \$4/bulb
LED Fixture	Complete fixture or replacement kit. ENERGY STAR®-recommended.	50% of the purchase price up to \$4/fixture
LED Outdoor Fixture	Dusk to dawn operation required. DesignLights™ Consortium or ENERGY STAR®-recommended.	50% of the purchase price up to \$10/fixture
Clothes Washer	Must be ENERGY STAR®-approved.	\$25/unit
Clothes Dryer	Must be ENERGY STAR®-approved.	\$25/unit
Refrigerator or Freezer	Must be ENERGY STAR®-approved.	\$25/unit
Recycle Old Refrigerator or Freezer	Recycling receipt required.	\$50/unit
Electric Water Heater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55 gallon or less • 80-85 gallon • 100 gallon or greater • Conversion from gas to electric 	Must be on demand response program.	\$125/\$125/\$100/unit \$200/\$200/\$300/unit \$300/\$300/\$300/unit \$250/unit
Programmable Thermostat		50% of the purchase price up to \$25
ENERGY STAR Smart Thermostat	Wi-Fi connectivity required.	50% of the purchase price up to \$50
Tuneup for Central AC	Not valid on window AC units. Checklist on form must be completed with application.	\$25/unit
Tuneup for Air-Source Heat Pump or Mini-Split Ductless Air-Source Heat Pump	Checklist on form must be completed with application.	\$25/unit
Supplemental Heating Source Air-Source Heat Pump	Must modulate to allow ENERGY STAR-rated air-source heat pump to operate down to 5° F and be on load control.	\$500/unit
Air-Source Heat Pump or Mini-Split/Ductless ASHP	Less than 17 SEER Equal to or greater than 17 SEER	\$300/\$150/\$50/ton \$500/\$150/\$50/ton
Furnace (Air Handler) with ECM Blower	Furnace with an ECM blower. Retrofit applications only.	\$100/unit
Ground-Source Heat Pump Open Loop less than 135,000 BTUH @ 59° F	16.2 EER/3.6 COP Maximum incentive \$2,500/home.	\$200/ton
Ground-Source Heat Pump Closed Loop less than 135,000 BTUH @ 77° F	14.1 EER/3.3 COP Maximum incentive \$5,000/home.	\$400/ton

Insulation and air-sealing incentives for existing homes are available. See Roseau Electric for details.

All incentives, criteria and guidelines for residential and business members can be found at www.roseauelectric.com or by calling **888-847-8840**



Minnkota's energy marketers examine the load data of the day.
 Photo: Minnkota/Michael Hoefl

Power over the market

ENERGY MARKETERS COMBINE RELIABLE RESOURCES AND DEMAND RESPONSE TO AVOID A COLD-WEATHER CRISIS

In mid-February, millions of Texans were learning how to get through brutal winter temperatures with no electricity, while many more were researching how to pay for suddenly enormous power bills.

During that same subzero-weather event, a group of energy marketers at Minnkota Power Cooperative (Roseau Electric's wholesale energy provider) was getting a lesson on how to protect the cooperative's members from facing similar ice-cold consequences. And they skillfully passed the test.

"We've seen some extreme temperatures locally, and we know how that plays into what we do day-to-day," said energy marketer Mark Fulbright, who has been with Minnkota less than two years. "But during this event we had the opportunity to see extreme temperatures spread across the country, and how that can add a new dimension to how we handle operations here."

The "we" that Fulbright refers to is a trio of fairly new additions to Minnkota's power supply and resource planning department. Along with Fulbright, energy marketers Amber Langemo and Isaac Hoffart were all hired within the past two years, all three missing the last polar vortex event in January 2019. They join experienced energy marketer Dan Trebil, an 8-year veteran of powering through climate anomalies.

"They handled a very stressful situation very well," said Todd Sailer, senior manager of power supply and resource planning. "Trying to incorporate our demand response, managing the wind forecasts and understanding how the markets work – this was one of those experiences that will end up being very valuable for them in the future."

What happened?

The nearly two-week February cold snap that essentially crippled the Texas

power grid started up north. From approximately Feb. 8-14, Minnkota's service area experienced some of its coldest temperatures of the stretch. As the polar vortex dropped south, both regional demand and weather-related generation issues began to rise.

Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) – the organization that manages the transmission grid and energy markets of a 15-state region that includes Minnkota's territory – asked its providers to enter conservative operations Feb. 14-20 and declared a Maximum Generation Event on Feb. 16. Over those days, the combination of expanded regional need and less generation availability (from frozen plants, natural gas pipeline constraints and less production from wind farms across the midsection of the country) made the cost of buying energy from the grid skyrocket.

"We saw prices over \$100 all hours

of the day starting on Feb. 15, and it lasted four to five days,” Sailer recalled. “We might see it that high for a few hours but, typically, in the last couple of years, it’s been averaging less than \$20 per megawatt-hour. So when you’re seeing prices of \$200, \$400, sometimes up to \$900, it completely changes what you’re trying to manage.”

Minnkota had to protect itself from relying on the volatile market. Although the coal-based Young Station continued to provide electricity reliably throughout the event, wind power generation dropped due to low winds and temperatures. Minnkota’s healthy demand response program – through which members volunteer to have certain electric loads like dual-fuel heating and water heaters controlled for a reduced rate – helped Sailer’s energy marketers decrease the demand on the grid.

“Because we’re scheduling our generation resources into the market, we’re making sure we’re scheduling those resources in the right market. If the power plant’s going to be available or the wind’s going to be available, we’re making sure to schedule that properly,” Sailer explained. “With that, you identify where your exposure is in the market, or maybe identify some opportunities in the market related to our demand response program. We’re making sure we’re doing something that is beneficial to our members and maximizing the value of those resources.”

Ultimately, Minnkota came out of the cold snap with few weather-related service interruptions to its members. There were no rolling blackouts as briefly seen in neighboring grid systems, and no days-long outages as experienced in the south. Minnkota used 84 hours of dual-fuel heat control, which helped avoid high energy market costs. The electricity provided by the Young Station covered the remaining demand and added needed power into the national grid.

“Our value of reliability shined through in a moment where others were facing crisis,” said plant engineering and environmental manager Tim Hagerott, adding that the Young Station is specifically designed to operate in North Dakota’s cold-weather climate. “The majority of our equipment is housed in-

doors in heated buildings. We also have several systems that utilize heat trace that is covered by insulation to prevent piping and equipment from freezing.”

A different situation

In Texas’ unique energy landscape, the situation was starkly different. Many generation resource technologies, including natural gas pipelines, coal plants and wind turbines, could not perform in the once-in-a-century low temperatures. For most of the country, this would mean importing energy from a neighboring grid system operator (such as MISO). However, the Electricity Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) is independent of those grid interconnections.

“They’re somewhat of an island when they start having problems on their system, because they’re limited in bringing in other resources from other regions,” Sailer said. “It was obviously a very extreme weather event for them, so some of their units just weren’t prepared for that cold. It wasn’t just one resource – they were nearly all impacted, which resulted in Texas being isolated.”

Additionally, hundreds of Texas power consumers who were enrolled in programs that connect them directly

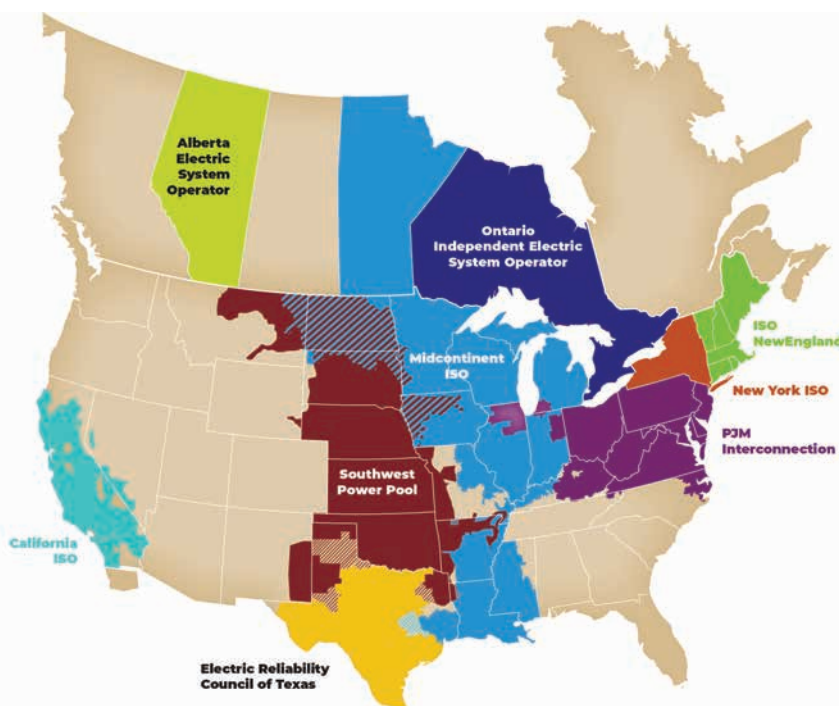
to wholesale power rates were burned by that week’s market volatility, receiving bills that were thousands of dollars higher than normal. Minnkota and its member cooperatives protect their member-consumers from this price fluctuation by using their own generation resources to limit market exposure.

When the polar vortex finally waned in late February, Minnkota’s energy marketers were able to return to some normalcy – regular work hours, stable market prices and infrequent demand response needs. The adrenaline may have faded, but the newcomer knowledge will stick around for the next time it’s their job to help keep power reliable and affordable.

“This is a unique job in the sense that it seems like we learn something new every day,” Fulbright said, surrounded by his fellow marketers. “And that week was tenfold.”

“It was exciting, because we hadn’t seen anything like that before,” Langemo added. “You can talk about these things in theory, but when you’re actually doing them, it’s a lot different. It was a great way to learn, when you have three other people to bounce ideas off of. That’s one thing with our group – we do function well as a team.”

By Kaylee Cusack, Minnkota Power Cooperative



MISO, in which Minnkota is a member, overlaps the Southwest Power Pool. Also shown is ERCOT, which was limited in its ability to import power from neighboring grids.





Operation Round Up[®] grants total \$12,600

The Operation Round Up board met recently and a total of seven grants totaling \$12,600 were awarded.

At the discretion of the ORU board, grants may be denied for a number of reasons. The top two reasons for most denials are funds would be spent outside of our service territory and/or funds would be spent for disposable or supply-type items.

Do you know of a worthy non-profit organization in Roseau Electric's service territory that is raising money for a project? Please print

an Operation Round Up Grant Application and Guidelines form from our website and get it to the organization. The next application deadline is Aug. 31, 2021, with the decisions made and grant awards paid out by the end of September 2021. Thank you for your part in Operation Round Up.

Serving as Operation Round Up board members are: Phil Kazmierczak, chair, District 6; Robert Bentow, vice chair, District 5; Laurie Polansky, secretary-treasurer, District 8; Ron Tveit, District 1; Beth Karol, District 3; Marilyn Grafstrom, District 4; Allison Harder, District 7; and Kandy Sundberg, District 9. The District 2 seat was open as of the March 2021 meeting.

The following organizations have been awarded Operation Round Up grants

Four Seasons Senior Citizens Center <i>Quilting table project</i>	\$ 3,300
Grygla-Gatzke Food Shelf <i>Food supplies</i>	500
Northland Range & Gun Club <i>Outdoor lighting project</i>	2,500
Roseau Eagles Auxiliary 3882 <i>Gas cards for cancer</i>	1,000
Salol Improvement Association <i>Food supplies</i>	800
Wannaska Community Center <i>Yard pole move</i>	1,500
Warroad Lost River Sportsman Complex <i>Road/parking lot rebuild project</i>	3,000
Total	\$12,600



Our offices will be closed
Monday, May 31

in observance of

Memorial Day

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



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
Email Stacy Rose at
srose@roseauelectric.com

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below.
Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

<p>1. NOTIFY Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.</p> 	<p>2. WAIT Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.</p> 	<p>3. CONFIRM Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.</p> 	<p>4. RESPECT Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.</p> 	<p>5. DIG CAREFULLY If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.</p> 
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COLOR CODING FOR MARKING UNDERGROUND UTILITIES

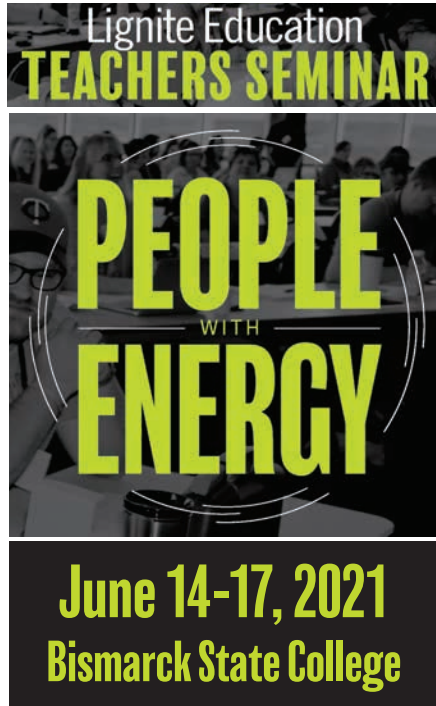
WHITE	Proposed excavation
PINK	Temporary survey markings
RED	Electric power lines, cables, conduit and lighting cables
YELLOW	Gas, oil, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials
ORANGE	Communication, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduit
BLUE	Water
PURPLE	Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines
GREEN	Sewer and drain lines

Lignite Energy Council to offer Teacher Education Seminar

Registration is now open for the Lignite Energy Council's Teacher Education Seminar: Energy, Economics and Environment. The free seminar gives teachers a firsthand look at lignite mining and related energy production. The seminar will be held June 14-17, 2021, at Bismarck State College's National Energy Center of Excellence, Bismarck, N.D. Teachers from all grade and subject levels should apply as soon as possible, as space is limited due to COVID-19.

Teachers who attend and complete a lesson plan can choose from one of three North Dakota institutions from which to receive their graduate credits: University of North Dakota, North Dakota State University and Minot State University. Free lodging, meals and mileage reimbursement are provided.

The seminar provides instruction on history, geology, land reclamation, environmental protection and economics of the lignite industry, the need for more workers, energy conservation and transmission. If



COVID-19 restrictions allow, tours of a mine, power plant and the Great Plains Synfuels plant will be provided as part of the seminar. Teachers will take home handouts, videos, coal samples and activities that can be used in the classroom.

For more information and an online application go to:

www.lignite.com/teachers



OPERATING STATISTICS

	Monthly		Yearly	
	Feb. 2020	Feb. 2021	Feb. 2020	Feb. 2021
Members	6,531	6,566	6,531	6,566
kWh purchased	16,129,984	16,848,517	33,405,299	33,314,376
% change		4.45%		-0.27%
Revenue	1,782,704	1,874,666	3,713,256	3,730,998
Cost of power	1,105,658	1,123,885	2,264,333	2,230,056
Other expenses	522,830	541,115	1,146,588	1,199,497
Operating margins	154,216	209,666	302,335	301,445
Nonoperating margins	15,348	6,050	27,847	20,399
Patronage dividends	-	-	-	-
Total margins	169,564	215,716	330,182	321,844



ENERGY TIP

The "BRRR" of winter is over, but we haven't forgotten the energy bill yet, or the cold drafts many noticed during the frigid outdoor temps. Air leakage occurs when outside air enters, and conditioned air leaves your house uncontrollably through cracks and openings. Detecting air leaks, assessing your ventilation needs for indoor air quality, and applying air sealing techniques and materials will reduce your heating and cooling energy bill.

SAFETY TIP

Spring projects bring potential electrical hazards. In this issue are several safety infographics, hoping to help you work safely around your home or farm.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"I am going to try to pay attention to the spring. I am going to look around at all the flowers and look up at the hectic trees. I am going to close my eyes and listen."

- Anne Lamott

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 21 - Electric bill is due

April 21 - 81st Annual Meeting
NOT IN PERSON

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!



As you prepare for planting season, don't forget to plan for safety. There are many aspects to safety on the farm, but electrical safety is often overlooked. Keep these safety tips in mind as you prepare for planting.



TRAIN OTHERS

Train anyone working on your farm, including family members and seasonal workers, about electrical hazards.

SAFETY FIRST

Have daily meetings to review the day's work and discuss safety implications. Know and review where the power lines are, the clearance required, and the proper position of extensions as they are transported.



WAIT TO UNFOLD

Remind workers to fold or unfold extensions well into the field, not close to the field's edge where power lines are typically located.

USE A SPOTTER

When working in the vicinity of power lines, always have a spotter on the ground, who can direct you away from power lines or poles if you are getting too close.

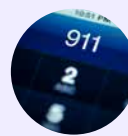


DO NOT EXIT YOUR CAB

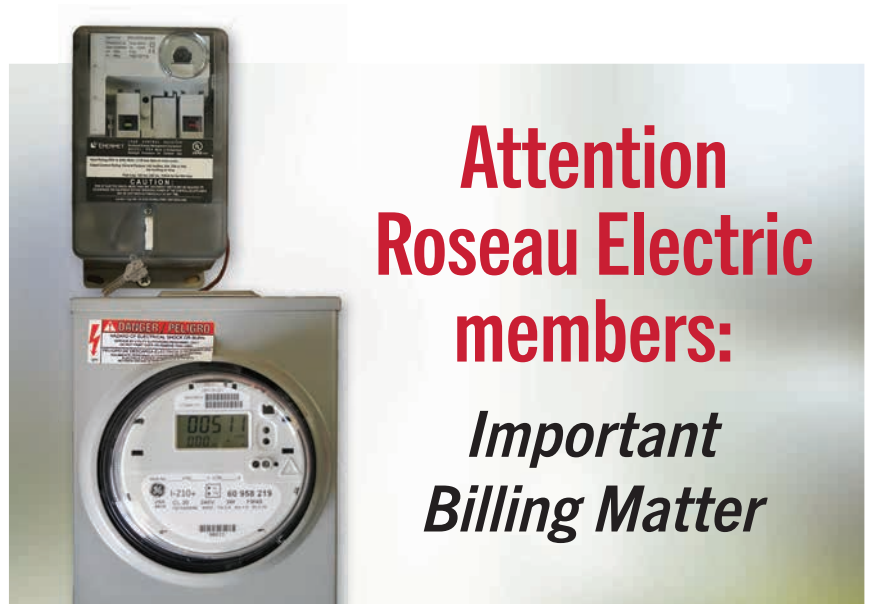
If your machine or truck makes contact with a power line, pole, or guy wire, you could become electricity's path to ground and become electrocuted if you step out of the cab.

CALL 9-1-1

Call 9-1-1 to have your electric utility dispatched to deenergize the power source. Only exit the cab if your equipment is on fire. If that happens, make a solid jump out and hop away with feet together as far as you can.



For more information, visit safeelectricity.org



**Attention
 Roseau Electric
 members:
 Important
 Billing Matter**

OFF-PEAK METER CHANGEOUT

Roseau Electric is upgrading the Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) system due to a software end-of-life announcement from the meter manufacturer. After June 1, 2021, Roseau Electric will not be able to receive readings from the off-peak heat meters and members will not receive the off-peak rate unless this meter is updated.

Roseau Electric will be changing out off-peak heat meters to the new upgraded meters.

Please contact Roseau Electric at 1-218-463-1543 to schedule an appointment for your meter changeout to continue receiving the off-peak rate.

If you do not contact Roseau Electric to have your off-peak meter updated, you will lose your off-peak rate effective June 1, 2021.

Heat meters in the Northwest Angle do not need to be changed.