

# VOLTS & VIEWS



## 5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT HYDROPOWER

On Aug. 24, utilities across the country celebrate National Hydropower Day. Approximately 8% of your Roseau Electric Cooperative energy is derived from hydroelectric power. It may seem like a small percentage, but water's carbon-free impact on grid reliability is enormous!

Our hydropower comes from the Garrison Dam, located in central North Dakota. This federally owned earthen dam was completed in 1954 and rises 210 feet. Its electricity is produced when the Missouri River's flowing water spins turbines that drive electric generators. Every year, this process produces 2.6 million megawatt-hours of electricity. Plus, the dam serves as flood control for the region. Pretty cool, right?

There's more to love about hydropower. We've compiled some of our favorite tidbits to share with you on National Hydropower Day.



1

Hydropower has been in the electricity game for a long time – longer than any other renewable energy resource. In fact, the first hydroelectric dam was built in Wisconsin back in 1882.



2

You may not realize it, but hydropower creates a lot of great jobs in the U.S. As of 2022, the industry employed around 66,000 people.



3

Hydropower dams are critical to maintain clean and reliable power, but they also serve another vital role – as a source of reliable water for irrigation for the nation's food producers.



4

Most hydroelectric dams create reservoirs that offer ample opportunities for public recreation, such as swimming and boating. Garrison Dam's Lake Sakakawea is a great example, known for its fantastic walleye fishing.



5

Of the 80,000 or so dams in the United States, only 3% were built for hydropower. However, those hydro dams account for about 6% of the nation's total utility-scale electric generation.

*To learn more about the diverse resources that are used to generate your co-op power, scan the QR code!*



# VOLTS & VIEWS

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**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 – 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](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.*



# ELECTRIFY YOUR HOME HEATING WITH ELECTRIC THERMAL STORAGE

Electricity is said to be one of the most influential inventions of all time. Thanks to technological advances in the last century, we have been able to turn electricity into more than just light. We can use electricity to power our phones, our homes and even our cars. With the help of Steffes Electric Thermal Storage (ETS), you can use the brief power of electricity to heat your home all day long.

## BENEFITS



### Ease

Thanks to an outdoor sensor that monitors your ETS heater, once the system is set up you never have to worry if the correct amount of heat is stored. The system will automatically adjust for the time of year and keep you worry-free and comfortable.



### Responsibility

An electric thermal storage heater requires no backup fuels. This system is clean while also being 100% efficient – a great tool for environmental stewardship.



### Savings

ETS heaters are eligible for **Roseau Electric Cooperative's low off-peak electricity rate**, nearly half of the standard rate. You can also save even more thanks to a **\$90 per kilowatt-hour rebate** available for off-peak installation.

It's a great time to warm up to stored heat. Call your energy pros at Roseau Electric Cooperative to learn more about the advantages of ETS, and reach out to a trusted contractor to install comfort today!

# From the line

Mike Millner, Line Superintendent



It has been a while since we had time to chat! I'm not sure where this summer has gone. I have been so busy, time just flies by. With the fair behind us, get ready; it can snow anytime.

We have had a great summer so far. Our crews have made great progress at the Northwest Angle repairing all of the flood-damaged equipment and conductors. I made it up there last week to check on the project. My guess is that we have around six weeks of work left on that project and a few more new services to build up there. I would like to give all the credit to all of my great guys for pulling this project together. Working all those 13-hour days and being away from their families is a challenge. Without their dedication we could never complete this project in one summer.

Closer to home we have also been quite busy with new services, revamps and line changes. We had a URD fault on the ridge by Warroad this week. That reminded us that we have another area of XLP cable that should be replaced before winter joins us. We also have several grain handling sites to upgrade before the harvest begins.

This is just a reminder, with harvesting just around the corner: Please be aware of your surroundings. Making contact with our power lines or poles could be a fatal mistake. If this were to happen, please stay in your vehicle until my linemen arrive and they let you know the line has been grounded and it is safe for you to leave your vehicle.

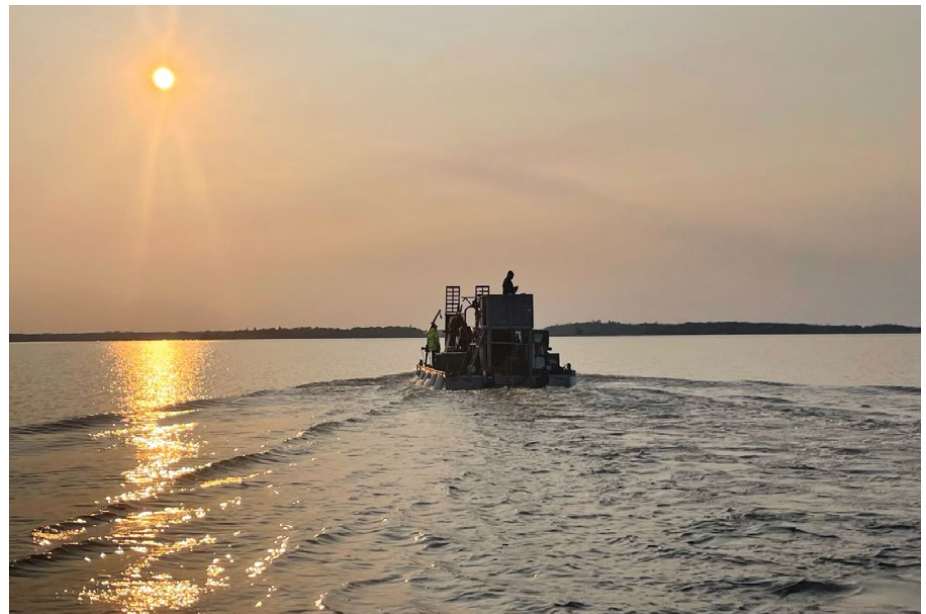
On the personal side, I'm very happy with our garden. We had asparagus and raspberries coming out of our ears. My deer food

plots turned out okay, but I'm getting some other plots ready to plant rye and oats. With bow season coming up shortly, it will soon be time to put away the fishing rods. We did have many memorable fishing outings with my parents and family. My wife did outfish me most of the time. I'm okay with that though. It makes her feel good.

Before I leave you, I would like to share a few quotes. "You only live

once, but if you do it right, once is enough," Mae West said. "If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything," Mark Twain told us. "Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up," said Thomas A. Edison.

May your boat not leak and your bow shoot straight. Until we meet again...Mike



REC barge heading to Oak Island at sunrise



REC linemen diving to connect innerduct to the directional boring machine to be pulled back onto the island



REC linemen loading equipment to be transported onto the islands

# Back to School



## ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS

Back-to-school month can be stressful for students AND their parents – especially when it's time for college. Gathering, organizing and packing all the necessities for the year is not ideal when trying to enjoy your last moments of sunshine and fun. As your teens get ready to venture out on their own, it's always a good idea to revisit the basics of electrical safety. Here are five electrical safety tips that will help give you and your student a little peace of mind when heading back to school.



### OUTLET TIP

Keep your student safe from potential fire hazards by checking if outlets are loose, are missing a wall plate, or become too hot to touch when something is plugged in. Call the landlord or dorm official right away.



### EXTENSION CORD TIP

Dorm rooms or small apartments may not have enough outlets for students to plug in all their gadgets or devices, but extension cords are only meant for temporary use. If an extension cord is needed in the dorm, urge your college-aged kids to unplug it when they are done. Consider purchasing a power-strip with an overcurrent protector – it's the perfect dorm-warming gift!



### LIGHT BULB TIP

LED bulbs use 75% less energy than traditional bulbs. If your bright student needs to replace a light bulb and they can't find the required wattage needed, always encourage them to choose an LED bulb under 60 watts – and remind them to flip the switch OFF before attempting a replacement.



### CHARGING CORD TIP

Did you know not all charging cords are made the same? It's tempting to purchase cheaper charging cords for a phone or gaming device, but lower prices often mean lower quality and a higher chance of malfunction. Only buy cords certified by your device's manufacturer to avoid damage to the charging port or device itself.



### DAMAGED ELECTRONICS TIP

Damaged electronics like broken gaming devices or worn-out kitchen appliances should not be plugged in, so don't send them off with your students! Damaged electronics can shock or electrocute them, while also ruining other cords and electronics plugged into that outlet. Don't risk it. Either repair or replace broken electronics.



## STRIKING SCAMMERS OUT



Don't let scammers score by collecting your personal and financial information. Here are 3 things to look for that will help strike out scammers.

### THIRD BASE

If you are ever contacted by an agency with an amazing deal on solar panels that will help save on electricity or they offer you tax credits for using solar energy — **STRIKE 3** scammer! Adding solar panels to your home is a lengthy and expensive undertaking. When identifying a scam, look for unrealistically low prices or any company saying they will lease you solar panels without a contract.

### SECOND BASE

If someone claiming to be Roseau Electric Cooperative calls and says you have overpaid your utility bill and they can begin issuing you a refund if you provide them with your financial information — **STRIKE 2!** Your local co-op will never call and request your financial information.

### FIRST BASE

If you receive a call saying your power will be turned off in the next hour if you don't reply with immediate over-the-phone payment — **STRIKE 1** scammer! Roseau Electric Cooperative will never demand your immediate payment over the phone.

### HOME BASE

Tips to throw scammers out of the game:

- Always ask to speak to a trusted Roseau Electric Cooperative employee.
- Know that your trusted co-op will not ask for personal info over the phone.
- A tone of urgency is often a trick scammers use to try and gain information from you.
- Gather as much information as you can from the scammer and contact your local authorities. Also, make your local co-op aware of the scam.
- If you are unsure about a call, just hang up.

If you ever have any doubts about your utility bill please call our office at 218-463-1543 or stop by in person.

## 2023 Roseau County Fair prize winners

### ROSEAU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE WINNERS

**Portable Vacuum:** Jason Holter

**Air Fryer:** Aliza Olson

**Griddle:** Rosalind Bentow

**Bus Tour Tickets:** Carol Lunos

**Cordless Chainsaw**  
Chuck Sorenson

GRAND PRIZE  
WINNER

### NORTHSTREAM FIBER WINNERS

**Chargers:** Cindy Holmgren  
Tammy Clevon

**Power Banks:** Ericka Vasko  
Glen Jaenicke

**YETI Cooler**  
Alisa Gustafson

GRAND PRIZE  
WINNER

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

The average home in our area can be powered for about **\$45 per week** – the price of a new, stylish pair of back-to-school jeans.

**VALUING EVERYTHING THAT POWERS YOUR WEEK.**

**THAT'S THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY.**



## Minnkota transmission line inspections scheduled for August

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Roseau Electric's wholesale power provider, will be inspecting its transmission lines in preparation for vegetation maintenance activities in 2024. This inspection will allow Minnkota to evaluate vegetation growth around electrical infrastructure and within the right of way. The purpose of these inspections is to ensure that electricity can be delivered safely and reliably to your area, as well as prioritize project work. Davey Resource Group will be assisting Minnkota personnel in the patrols. If you have questions, please visit [Minnkota.com](https://www.minnkota.com) or call 701-795-4000.





## GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE AUG. 31, 2023

To be considered at the September 2023 meeting, grant applications must be received by **Aug. 31, 2023**.

Grant applications are available at the REC office or by visiting our website at [roseauelectric.com](http://roseauelectric.com).

## 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](http://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. | P.O. Box 100 | Roseau, MN 56751-0100

## member connection

### ENERGY TIP

Energy used for cooling and heating your home makes up the largest portion of your monthly energy bills. By combining regular maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30% on your energy bills while helping our environment.

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

### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### August 21

Electric bill is due

#### August 26

Grygla Fall Festival

#### September 4

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

[roseauelectric.coop](http://roseauelectric.coop)

## OPERATING STATISTICS

	Monthly		Year to Date	
	June 2022	June 2023	June 2022	June 2023
Members	6,631	6,666	6,631	6,666
kWh purchased	9,425,273	9,904,311	84,690,713	81,060,767
% change		5.08%		-4.29%
Revenue	1,299,908	1,388,664	9,967,961	9,843,584
Cost of power	797,566	828,247	6,087,952	5,939,975
Other expenses	520,059	556,852	3,322,825	3,376,217
Operating margins	(17,717)	3,565	557,184	527,392
Non-operating margins	18,663	23,660	27,599	59,172
Patronage dividends	-	-	169,622	-
Total margins	946	27,225	754,405	586,564



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TO STAY UP TO DATE!

@RoseauElectricCooperativeInc

# TIPS FOR A SAFE HARVEST



**D**uring harvest season, many farmers reap the benefits of advancement in agricultural technology. With the help of GPS auto-steer devices, farmers are able to decrease driver error and maximize productivity. Yet despite these advances, safety risks remain. National Farm Safety and Health Week is typically held in September, and Safe Electricity shares tips for a safe harvest.

GPS with auto-guidance provides farmers with real-time, accurate location data about a field, which can be used for crop planning, map making, navigation assistance, and machinery guidance. During harvest, this technology allows drivers to have their hands off the steering wheel as the combine maneuvers itself through the field. Thanks to this technology, farmers can more easily and efficiently main-

tain accuracy even during low light conditions, which enhances productivity.

“One critical part of safety around electricity is awareness,” explains Erin Hollinshead, executive director of the Safe Electricity program. “It’s important to remember that farm machinery is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of its large size, height, and extensions. Being aware

of the location of overhead power lines and planning a safe equipment route can help reduce accidents.”

In equipment with auto-guidance systems, less focus is needed on steering, which may lead some drivers to think that they do not need to be as aware of navigation issues. However, even while using a GPS with auto-steering, farm workers need to keep safety in mind and stay focused on their surroundings.

Putting safety first requires alertness, focus, and knowledge of potential hazards and safety steps. Varying pass-to-pass accuracy levels and potential issues, such as power poles not being correctly plotted in the system, reinforce the need for drivers to stay focused on the location of the farm equipment while in the field and to be ready to take action if necessary.

Regardless of the technology used on the farm, keep the following electrical safety guidelines in mind:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines at all times, in all directions.
- Look up and use care when moving any equipment such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, contact your utility.

If equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and machinery at the same time. Then, still keeping feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.