

APRIL 2024

VOLTS & VIEWS

 **Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

NORTHSTREAM
Powered by  **FIBER**

NATIONAL LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

APRIL 8, 2024

Their work is dangerous.

Their stakes are high.

Their hours are long.

Their mission is service.

Their commitment is enduring.

Our gratitude is eternal.

Thank a Roseau
Electric Cooperative
lineworker!



VOLTS & VIEWS

APRIL 2024 – Vol. 69, No. 4

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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 Vice Chairman Jim Hallan
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 Shawn Gust, Kermit Jensen,
 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 – 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.

OPERATION ROUND UP® GRANTS TOTAL \$14,771.19



The Operation Round Up® (ORU) board met recently and a total of eight grants totaling \$14,771.19 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 nonprofit 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, 2024**, with the decisions made and grant awards paid out by the end of September 2024. Thank you for your part in Operation Round Up®.

The ORU board of directors is as follows: Phil Kazmierczak, chair (District 6); Robert Bentow, vice chair (District 5); Laurie Polansky, secretary-treasurer (District 8); Marilyn Grafstrom (District 4); Allison Harder (District 7); Arvid Janson (District 2); Beth Karol (District 3); Kandy Sundberg (District 9) and Ron Tveit (District 1).

THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN AWARDED OPERATION ROUND UP GRANTS

Grygla Gatzke Food Shelf	\$1,000.00
Food Supplies	
Moxie, Inc.....	\$500.00
Canopy Tents (2)	
Roseau Area Food Shelf.....	\$3,400.00
Freezer	
Roseau County Historical Society	\$1,135.00
Work Platform Ladder	
Ross Community Rink and Rec	\$3,400.00
Zamboni Building/Locker Room Electrical Work	
Wannaska School Rink and Rec	\$3,400.00
Announcer/Timekeeper Booth	
Warroad Folk School	\$1,000.00
Kitchen Appliances	
Warroad Heritage Center	\$936.19
Laptop Computer	
Total	\$14,771.19

From the line

Mike Millner, Line Superintendent



Wow! What a great winter we have had. Our kilowatt sales have definitely suffered with the mild winter, but on the positive side, I can't remember in my 34-plus years at this cooperative getting as much right of way cleared. We also built close to 11 miles of power lines and strung I-don't-know-how-many miles of fiber during the winter. This is all due to the hard-working, dedicated personnel that we have here at the cooperative! Thanks to everyone working together.

On April 8 we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day! I would like to put out a huge thank-you to my crews, who are dedicated to keeping your lights on no matter what the weather conditions are. I plan to make them a hearty breakfast before work to celebrate and honor them. When you see my guys out and about, just tell them thank you and we appreciate you.

With the construction season just around the corner, I would like to remind you to call "Gopher State One Call" before you dig. It is not only the law, but I also don't want you or one of my lineworkers to be in a position where one could be severely injured or even killed. We also have a busy summer planned with lots of line con-

struction going on, so please help us manage our workload by giving me a heads up on any new services and service upgrades that will have to take place this summer.

This winter has also gone by very fast for me. I had the opportunity to bring a fine, hardworking crew from Roseau down to Florida to start building our new home. We poured close to 200 yards of concrete. I also had lots of help from my friends from Warren, Minn., and my brother-in-law. We had several people stop by the job site while we were working and ask where the crew was from. After telling them these were Minnesota boys, they replied, "You would have never made so much progress in such a short amount of time with local help!" We hauled power trowels, power screeds and concretes stamps down from Roseau. I will be finishing this house after I retire about a year from now. Thanks guys!

I also ran into a guy down there who was simply bored and he helped us for 10 days...just something to do. I guess there are good people all over.

I'm going to share a few quotes with you before I go. This next one is one I really like and think too many people are afraid of taking a chance on something new or unfamiliar. Eleanor Roosevelt recommended, "Do one thing every day that scares you." And Benjamin Franklin famously said, "Well done is better than well said." May the fish always bite and your lights stay on...Mike



Linemen stringing fiber to Springsteel Island



REC crew clearing power line right of way



It's National Safe Digging Month



**CAN YOU
DIG IT?**

Before you start planning any outdoor projects this spring, don't forget to **CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!**

The month of April is dedicated to spreading awareness of the importance of calling 8-1-1, the national call-before-you-dig number, before beginning any new outdoor project at your home or business. You never know what buried lines, cables or pipes are hidden underneath your property. To protect yourself from serious injury or costly repairs, call 8-1-1 two to three days before your shovel is scheduled to break ground.

When should I call 8-1-1?

When putting
in a mailbox
CALL 8-1-1



When planting
a garden
CALL 8-1-1



When building
a deck
CALL 8-1-1



When adding
a fence
CALL 8-1-1



Keep your family, friends and neighborhood safe by remembering these five easy steps to ensure safe digging.

1 NOTIFY

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



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.



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.



4 RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



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.



Ready to begin your next backyard addition? Visit **call811.com** or scan this code to get started on your safe digging online request form today!



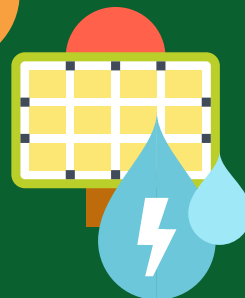
CELEBRATING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP THIS EARTH DAY

Rural electric cooperatives love Earth Day. That's because, on April 22, we get to celebrate a few of the amazing resources and programs we offer to help preserve our region and our planet. With environmental stewardship at the heart of our values, Roseau Electric Cooperative and our power provider, Minnkota Power Cooperative, want to share a few of the many ways we work to keep the air, water and land of the region exceptional.

Responsible generation

Minnkota's generation portfolio leverages an all-of-the-above energy strategy – they rely on a diverse mix of energy resources to meet the demands of our region. Currently, 41% of your power comes from carbon-free resources like wind and hydro. Additionally, Minnkota and its partners are pursuing a carbon capture initiative called Project Tundra at the coal-based Young Station near Center, N.D. If the project moves forward, roughly 4 million tons of carbon dioxide will be safely captured and stored every year.

1



2



Infinity Renewable Energy Program

Many of Roseau Electric Cooperative's members are interested in being powered by renewable generation resources. The Infinity Renewable Energy program allows homes and businesses to enroll and choose the kilowatt-hours or percentage of their electricity they would like to come from renewable resources. Call today and learn more about how you can get signed up!

3



Wildlife & vegetation protection

Living in this region offers the privilege of enjoying its diverse wildlife and vegetation. When it's time to plan new power projects, your cooperative takes into consideration how it may impact the current environment. We prioritize considerations for environmentally delicate zones and bird migratory routes when planning new power line routes. Additionally, we deploy innovative technologies to keep birds from perching on power poles and preventing other creatures from climbing them.

4



Electrification efforts & incentives

Members who are "going electric" are not only saving more on their energy bill but also limiting use of gas, propane and fuel oil. Roseau Electric Cooperative offers rebates and incentives on electric technologies like water heaters, electric vehicle chargers and heat pumps that are not only energy efficient, but also environmentally conscious. Check out ValueofElectricity.com to learn more!

GRID REGULATORS ISSUE WARNINGS ABOUT POWER RELIABILITY



Roseau Electric Cooperative is connected to a regional grid that is facing a high to extreme risk of reliability issues in the next five years, according to assessments from leading grid regulators.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) – the entity responsible for developing and enforcing mandatory reliability standards for utilities in the United States and Canada – released its Long-Term Reliability Assessment in December 2023. The report found that rising peak demand for electricity and the planned retirement of 83,000 megawatts (MW) of fossil fuel and nuclear generation over the next 10 years creates blackout risks for most of the United States.

The highest risk level is in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) region, which covers 15 states including Minnesota and the eastern Dakotas through the central U.S. to Louisiana. Challenges throughout other parts of the U.S. can and do impact operations at Roseau Electric Cooperative due to the interconnected nature of the grid. Although this region plans to add 12,000 MW of new resources in the next five years, the retirement of power plants is expected to leave the region with a shortfall of 4,700 MW by 2028.

The top recommendation from NERC in the report is for the addition of new

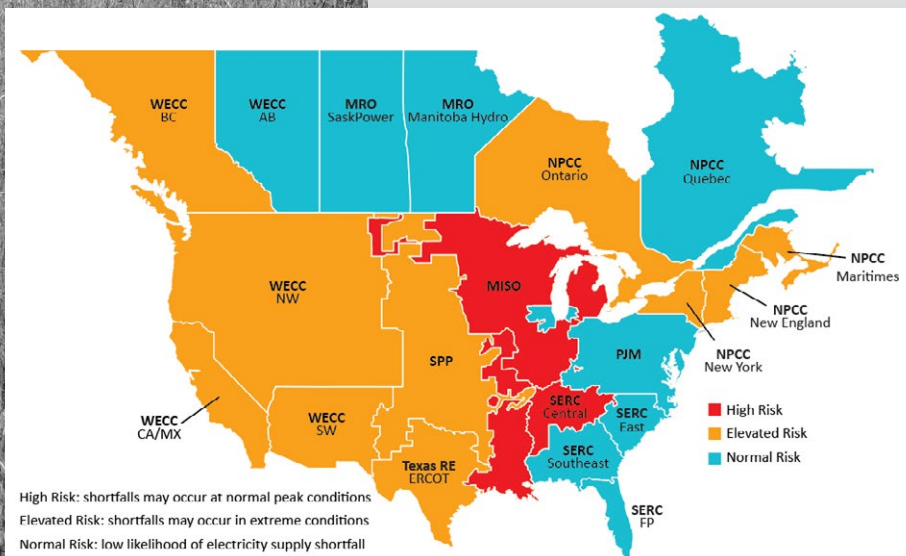
resources with needed reliability attributes and to make existing resources more dependable. Additionally, NERC said, “New wind and solar resources use inverters to convert their output power onto the grid, and the vast majority of resource inverters are susceptible to tripping or power disruption during normal grid fault conditions; this makes the future grid less reliable when more resources are inverter-based.”

Other important recommendations include the expansion of power transmission infrastructure, updates to wholesale energy market designs and strengthened relationships among reliability stakeholders and policy-makers. The Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO) came to a similar conclusion about the dire state of grid reliability when it released its 2024 Regional Risk Assessment in February. For the first time in its history, MRO identified an extreme risk – uncertain energy availability.

The report identified that “conventional, baseload generation that is available on demand is being retired and replaced with resources with limited energy availability due to uncertain fuel supplies that are increasingly weather dependent.” Additionally, the report found that “new generation resources are largely inverter-based and perform much differently than conventional resources, reducing essential reliability services to the grid and requiring new modeling assumptions.”

MRO is one of six regional entities operating underneath NERC to ensure the reliability of the bulk electric system through the enforcement of reliability standards.

“Reliability needs to stay at the forefront of people’s minds as the policy framework is being defined,” said Mac McLennan, Minnesota president and CEO. “It’s unacceptable for the people of our region to wake up in the morning and not know if they’re going to have dependable electric service. Our country is accelerating down a path where this could become our reality. We need to approach this transformation of America’s electric grid with caution and common sense. There’s simply too much at stake.”



NEED HELP 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



You can also apply online:

<https://energy-assistance.web.commerce.state.mn.us/>

Over the past five years, your electricity prices have remained stable while the average U.S. chicken prices have increased **30%.**



ELECTRICITY – DELIVERING A POWERFUL VALUE EACH AND EVERY DAY.



OPERATING STATISTICS

	Monthly		Year to Date	
	February 2023	February 2024	February 2023	February 2024
Members	6,662	6,702	6,662	6,702
kWh purchased	15,883,606	14,413,138	33,073,261	31,402,276
% change		-9.26%		-5.05%
Revenue	1,809,110	1,708,506	3,741,379	3,645,724
Cost of power	1,097,791	1,036,464	2,246,173	2,185,380
Other expenses	533,789	535,992	1,141,234	1,189,177
Operating margins	177,530	136,050	353,972	271,167
Non-operating margins	27,504	23,499	55,634	39,312
Patronage dividends	-	-	-	-
Total margins	205,034	159,549	409,606	310,479

member connection

ENERGY TIP

A well-designed landscape can add beauty to your home and reduce home heating and cooling costs. Plant deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns to the south of your home to block sunlight in the summer and reduce the need for air conditioning. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter, allowing sunlight to warm your home. Plant evergreen trees and shrubs with low crowns to block winter winds. Dense evergreen trees and shrubs planted to the north and northwest are the most common type of windbreak and can help lower energy used for home heating.

Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)



DATES TO REMEMBER

April 21
Electric bill 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

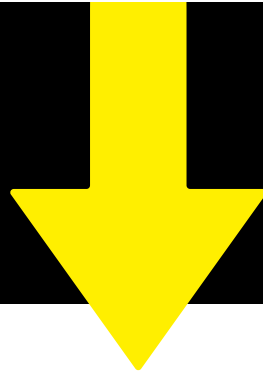
roseauelectric.coop



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
TO STAY UP TO DATE!

@RoseauElectricCooperativeInc

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE



U.S. Government Federal law prohibits removal of this label before consumer purchase.

ENERGYGUIDE

Refrigerator-Freezer xx Corporation
 • Automatic Defrost Models xx
 • Side-Mounted Freezer Capacity: xx.x Cubic Feet
 • No through-the-door ice

Compare **ONLY** to other labels with yellow numbers.
 Labels with yellow numbers are based on the same test procedures.


Estimated Yearly Energy Cost
\$XX

Cost Ranges

Models with similar features	\$XX	\$XX
All models	\$XX	\$XX

XX kWh
 Estimated Yearly Electricity Use

- Your cost will depend on your utility rates and use.
- Both cost ranges based on models of similar size capacity.
- Models with similar features have xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx, xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx, xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx, xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.
- Estimated energy cost based on a national average electricity cost of 12 cents per kWh.

ftc.gov/energy 

A yellow ENERGY GUIDE label does not indicate ENERGY STAR. It must have the ENERGY STAR logo.



Look for the ENERGY STAR logo as shown to qualify for your appliance rebate!



Visit Roseau Electric Cooperative's website for more information on rebates. Make sure to check out energystar.gov to see if your appliance qualifies. The appliances that are eligible for rebates are washers, electric dryers, refrigerators and freezers.