

NEWS

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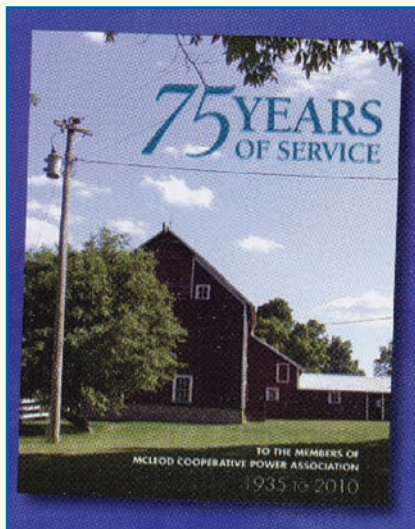
Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

History book makes a great Christmas gift

Members who were unable to attend the annual meeting may stop in the office and pick up a copy of "75



Years of Service," a 96-page hardcover history book tracing the growth of McLeod Cooperative Power Association through its 75 years. One book is available per member at no charge, while supplies last. For members unable to travel to the Glencoe office, we will mail you a book for \$5.00 to cover packaging and postage.

The book includes over 160 photos covering the Cooperative from 1935 to 2010; stories from the early members who remember the day the lights came on, and the chronological

history and events that shaped McLeod Cooperative Power. This commemorative history book was this year's special attendance gift for members at the annual meeting. We are making it available to any members who would like a copy (while supplies last). We hope our members enjoy reading it and keep it as a treasured keepsake.

Stop in the office to get your one copy, or return the form below with \$5.00 to have us mail you a copy.

Presorted Standard
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #60
HUTCHINSON, MN
55350

Mail me a copy of "75 Years of Service"

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please enclose \$5 per book

Return to: McLeod Cooperative Power Assn., 1231 Ford Avenue, P.O. Box 70, Glencoe, MN 55336.

Fee for paying electric bill by credit/debit card begins January 1

Members paying their electric bill by credit or debit card will begin paying a \$5 fee per transaction in 2011. Credit and debit card payments are convenient for members but they cost the Cooperative money. The ever-increasing number of members making payments with credit cards has forced the Cooperative to add the \$5 fee to cover its labor of making the transaction and the cost the Cooperative has to pay to its credit card processing vendor. We encourage members to transition to Auto Pay, which automatically takes the amount due on the electric bill out of your checking or savings account the 28th of the month. You receive your bill mid-month and have two weeks to review it before the amount due is withdrawn. This is by far the most economical payment method for consumers and the Cooperative. It saves the customer from writing a check and they always know their payment will be in on time. It saves the Cooperative a lot of labor and expense compared to processing personal checks or credit/debit card payments.

Members can still make credit card payments up to \$500 anytime it is necessary, but the \$5.00 fee will be assessed to your account.

Capital credits applied to December bills

Members of McLeod Cooperative Power Association (MCPA) may notice lower electric bills in December. A total of \$608,093 is being distributed this month in capital credit refunds. This amount includes all remaining capital credits from 1991 and 20% of operating margins allocated from 2009. Capital credits are being applied to active electric accounts and will show as a line item credit on each bill that is supposed to receive a refund. Former members who no longer have an active electric account will be mailed their refund in the form of a check in December.

The employees and directors of McLeod Cooperative Power wish you and your family a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Our offices will be closed Thursday, Dec. 23, Friday, Dec. 24, and Friday, December 31 so our employees may spend the holidays with their families. For outages or electrical emergencies call 1-800-927-5685. For holiday, weekend and evening DIRECTV service call 1-800-927-5414.

PURPA policy information available upon request

The Public Utilities Regulatory Act of 1978 states that McLeod Cooperative is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers. McLeod Cooperative Power Association will provide information to all interested persons free of charge upon request. Any disputes over interconnection, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the Public Utilities Commission upon complaint. If any member has questions regarding PURPA policies, contact McLeod Cooperative Power Association, per Rule 7835.4600.

Manager's Message —

by Kris Ingenthron, General Manager
McLeod Cooperative Power Association



Why Do Our Lights Blink?

At one time or another, we've all returned home or woken up late for work to see a blinking "12:00" on our digital alarm clock. You then have to reset every digital clock in your household that doesn't have a battery backup, from the microwave oven to the answering machine.

Usually, this state of "eternal midnight" was caused by a "blink" in the electrical system. While blinks can be annoying, they show that our electrical system is working exactly as designed. And while McLeod Cooperative Power Association has taken steps to reduce the number of blinks across our system, there are measures you can take as well.

Let's look at blinks.

These momentary power interruptions can occur anywhere along a power system — from the time electricity is generated at a power plant to being shipped across transmission lines to substations, or during distribution from a substation to your home.

Blinks are created when a breaker, or switch, opens along any portion of the electrical system. The breaker usually opens because of a large, quick rise of electrical current. This large rise, called a fault condition, can occur from a tree branch, lightning strike, ice, wind or a wire break.

When this happens, a relay senses the fault and tells the breaker to open, preventing the

flow of power to the problem site. After opening, the breaker quickly closes. The brief delay, which allows the fault to clear, usually lasts less than two seconds. If the fault clears, every home or business that receives electricity off that power line has just experienced a blink. This could include thousands of accounts if the breaker protects a transmission line or a substation.

Typically, a breaker is programmed to reset 3 times before opening. If the problem does not clear itself the breaker will open and close before opening on the fourth operation. This is when an outage occurs.

Reducing the blink's effects

We employ many methods to reduce blink frequency. Tree trimming is probably the easiest and most common way, and one area where you can help. Make sure you notify us of any trees or limbs located close to a power line. Please call 1-800-494-6272 to report any potential problems or situations you may see and we will gladly remove the hazard.

Meanwhile, you can reduce the frustration of blinks by purchasing an alarm clock equipped with a battery backup. This type of digital clock offers "ride through" ability for momentary outages. It will also keep the correct time and sound an alarm in case of a long-duration outage, provided a charged battery is in place. As

an added benefit, these devices only use the battery in the event of a power interruption.

Blinks affect all electrical equipment, not just digital clocks. If there is a blink while you are operating a computer, your computer will power down and you will have to reboot, hoping all the while that there will be few corrupted files. An uninterruptible power supply (UPS) on your computer can help prevent information loss. The UPS incorporates surge suppression technology with a battery backup and provides you some time to save whatever you were working on and exit your computer properly.

The future of blinks

McLeod Cooperative Power Association operates an aggressive system maintenance program and continues to work hard to identify and fix sources of service interruptions. Even though blinks will never disappear from our electrical system, by working together we can minimize effects of the interruptions and the frequency with which they occur.

Kris Ingenthron

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1 Oria Brinkmeier, <i>Lester Prairie</i>	District 6 Lester Ranzau, Vice President <i>Glencoe</i>
District 2 Dale Peters, Secretary-Treasurer <i>Brownton</i>	District 7 Bill Polchow, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer <i>Silver Lake</i>
District 3 Roger Karstens, <i>Hutchinson</i>	District 8 Keith Peterson, <i>Hector</i>
District 4 Doug Kirtz, <i>Hector</i>	District 9 Gerald Roepke, President <i>New Germany</i>
District 5 Allan Duesterhoeft, <i>Hutchinson</i>	

MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER ASSOCIATION NEWS

The McLeod Cooperative Power Association News is published monthly by
McLeod Cooperative Power Association
PO Box 70
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Glencoe, MN 55336
General Manager: Kris Ingenthron
Editor: Sue Pawelk

The McLeod Cooperative Power Association News is the official member publication of McLeod Cooperative Power Association and focuses on our members, programs and events. All member story ideas and comments are welcome. Send to Sue Pawelk, editor, at the above address.

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Web site: www.mcleodcoop.com

Gopher State One Call 1-800-252-1166

Operation Round Up donation applications are being accepted until March 1



Community and civic groups, emergency responders and other non-profit organizations are welcome to apply to McLeod Cooperative Power's Operation Round Up Trust for donation assistance. The trust is able to donate funds to worthy local projects in McLeod, Renville, Sibley or McLeod Counties.

Funding is from the generosity of electric cooperative members who round up their electric bills. Application forms are available by calling the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272 ext. 502. Applications for funding must be completed and returned to the Cooperative by March 1, 2011.

\$100 gift card winner

MCPA member

Dennis Ingle of Bird Island

was one of the winners in the 2010 energy conservation promotion at www.mnbrighterideas.com, a web promotion of our power supplier Great River Energy.

Mr. Ingle registered at the site and his name was drawn as a winner of a \$100 certificate in the Fill Your Fridge Sweepstakes.

Congratulations.



Tree Cutting Notes

McLeod Cooperative Power has approximately 1,700 miles of overhead lines. Consumers that need trees cut down can hire their own contractor to remove their trees. This would be at the consumer's own expense. If they need assistance disconnecting power so the work can be done safely, MCPA will have a line crew remove the overhead lines and put them back up when the tree has been dropped. There is no charge to the consumer for this service. This is a good option to use when trees are in your own yard and are interfering with wires between the transformer pole and your home or outbuildings.

When you see distribution wires along your driveway, next to the roadway, or elsewhere away from your immediate yard, those are taken care of by the Cooperative's tree trimming contractor. Call the Cooperative if you see trees likely to fall on a line or with branches contacting a line. We will arrange for our contractor to remove those limbs or trees.

Carr's Tree Service will be working for the Cooperative in December in the Hutchinson area. They will be working on trimming lines south of Hutchinson served by Bell Sub and north of Hutch served by Hook Lake Sub.

Holiday light recycling program



Announcing a holiday light recycling program that will give local residents a place to get rid of their old holiday light strings and have the lighting components recycled. Best of all, the recycling service provides jobs to local disabled persons via the Adult Training and Habilitation Center (ATHC), located in Winsted and Hutchinson. Co-op members and the general public may drop their old light strings into recycling boxes located at McLeod Co-op Power, ACE Hardware stores in Glencoe and Hutchinson, Home Solutions in Norwood Young America and a variety of other locations where ATHC has set up collection boxes. There is no charge to drop off light strings. Old electrical, appliance and telephone cords are also accepted. Only battery chargers and adapters are not accepted.

All the old holiday light strings brought in by members when they participate in the \$3 rebate for new LED holiday light strings, will be recycled through this program.

Big-screen TVs could lead to big costs



each month. Screen size makes a big difference as well; the electricity consumption of a 40-inch LCD television is roughly four times that of an otherwise identical 22-inch model.

However, it can be tricky to find information about a television's energy needs. Manufacturers rarely advertise energy consumption, and it almost never appears on in-store labels. That's why it's important that consumers do their own research, often through online sources.

Most televisions fall into one of four categories – plasma, LCD, rear projection and cathode ray tube (CRT) – and each has its own electricity needs. The following guide will provide the basic information you need before you buy your next big screen.

Plasma

Plasma screens often are cited as the largest energy users, mainly because their 42- to 65-inch screens typically draw 240-400 watts. Plus, most consume electricity even when they're turned off.

LCD

LCD TVs don't need much power to operate (111 watts on average) and their screens are illuminated through either cold-cathode fluorescent lamps or LEDs. LED units offer several benefits, notably better picture quality and thinner and lighter screens. They also use slightly less energy (101 watts on average).

Rear projection

Rear projection televisions tend to be the most energy efficient and boast the largest screen sizes. However, due to their overall weight, rear projection sets are not as readily available as plasma and LCD models.

Cathode ray tube (CRT)

CRT televisions are what most consumers know as the "traditional television set." These are becoming more difficult to find because they employ old technology and screen sizes rarely top 40 inches.

It takes a lot of energy to watch TV

When it comes to televisions, high definition equals high energy use, and big screens equal big electricity bills.

If you're shopping for a new TV, it's important to factor

energy costs into your purchase. Decisions you make in the store can affect your electricity bill for years afterward.

For instance, if you opt for a plasma screen over an LCD, you can expect to spend at least an additional \$10 on electricity

Follow these tips to using your space heaters wisely

Many people turn to space heaters — both electric models and those powered by kerosene or even wood — as a convenient source of warmth in winter months. However, space heaters can be dangerous if not used properly.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that more than 25,000 residential fires every year are associated with space heaters. More than 300 people die in these fires. In addition, an

estimated 6,000 people annually receive hospital emergency care for burn injuries connected with space heaters.

Space heater hazards stem not just from fires caused by contact with or close proximity to heating elements. They also include fires started by flammable fuels used in the heaters; defective wiring in the appliance; and carbon monoxide poisoning caused by improper venting or an incomplete combustion of fuels.

Here are some tips for using your electric space heater safely:

- Keep the heater at least 3 feet from flammable items such as curtains, furniture, or bedspreads.
- Select a space heater with a guard around the heating element.
- When buying a heater, choose one that has been tested and certified by a nationally recognized testing institution such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Buy a heater that can handle the area that you want to heat.
- Read and follow the manufacturer's operating instructions.
- Keep children and pets away from space heaters.

- Never leave a space heater unattended.
- Never go to sleep with a space heater on.
- Never use or store flammable liquids near a space heater.
- Do not use a heater in a bathroom—it's a high-moisture area that could cause damage.
- Keep heaters away from water to prevent electrocution.
- Do not use an extension cord with a space heater.
- Do not use the heater to dry clothes.
- Be sure the heater's plug fits snugly in an outlet. The cord and plug may feel warm when operating since the unit draws so

much power, but they should not feel hot. If they do, unplug the heater and have a qualified repair person check for problems.

- Do not attempt to repair a broken heater yourself. It should be checked and repaired by a qualified appliance service center.

Space heaters will likely result in higher electric bills

Space heaters that claim to save you money on your heating bill are misleading you. Anytime you add an additional heating source, your cost will go up. Using an electric space heater will cause an increase on your electric bill. How much depends on frequency and duration



of use. The only way a space heater will save you money is if you turn down your home's primary heating source significantly and use your space heater to only heat the room you are occupying. This will likely result in loss of comfort in the rest of your home.

For additional safety tips on using space heaters that use wood or kerosene, visit the CPSC's Web site at <http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSC/PUBS/463.html>

Source: The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

Save energy on the farm with these FREE resources



On-farm energy use is a crucial element that affects the economics of running a farming business. As it becomes more important for farmers to look at ways to cut costs, energy is one area that is gaining in popularity. There is so much information, technology and energy efficiency rebates available, a farmer can make a significant impact in a relatively short amount of time and enjoy energy savings year after year.

Your electric cooperative is a great place to begin looking at energy efficiency tips and rebates. They are a knowledgeable and local resource that is always looking out for you, their member.

Two other resources that have just become available are publications that help the farmer quantify energy use, identify areas where conservation and efficiency improvements can be made, and give practical steps to achieving those improvements.

"Energy Efficient Farms: Identifying the Proper Improvements" helps farmers discover opportunities to reduce energy costs that are common to all farming operations, as well as specific advice for certain types of farm operations. Discover how to do self-audits and assess lighting, HVAC, motor use and more. You'll also see what rebates may be available and what the pay-back period is for each improvement.

"Improving Farm Energy Efficiency: A Guide to Navigating the Process" assists farmers to work through the process to implement energy conservation and efficiency improvements. This resource also lists the best available tools and resources for evaluating energy efficiency opportunities, as well as providing information on available rebates and other financial resources to make improvements possible.

Both of these resources can be downloaded FREE by going to www.mnproject.org/ and clicking on

the "Publications" button along the top of the home page. From that drop-down menu, select "Farm Energy Efficiency." If you don't have internet access, please contact your Cooperative and we'll print out a copy for you.

About the Minnesota Project
The Minnesota Project "champions the sustainable production and equitable distribution of energy and food in communities across Minnesota. They seek to provide programs that are focused on the development, conservation and efficient use of renewable energy; farm practices and policies that promote profitable farms that protect and replenish the environment; and the production and consumption of local, sustainably grown foods."

Source: *The Minnesota Project*

INDUSTRY

News

Basin Electric close to decision on carbon capture project

Basin Electric Power Cooperative said it will decide soon whether to capture carbon dioxide at its coal-fired power plant in central North Dakota. Basin wants to retrofit its Antelope Valley Power station near Beulah to capture carbon dioxide, store it underground, and sell it to oil companies for enhanced oil recovery. Company CEO Ron Harper told North Dakota Public Radio that an engineering study could be completed this month and presented to Basin's board in December. If a project is built, the federal Energy Department has promised to back a \$300 million loan to help pay for it.

-Bismarck Tribune

CapX2020 power lines project will add thousands of jobs

CapX2020, a network of high-voltage power lines that Xcel Energy, Great River Energy and other utilities are building across Minnesota, will generate nearly 8,000 jobs at the peak of construction in 2013, according to an impact study released Wednesday. The 128-page study, commissioned by the CapX2020 utilities, covers Minnesota, the Dakotas and Wisconsin and was done by the bureau of business and economic research in the business school at the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Among the key findings: CapX2020 will generate \$1.6 billion in wages, rent and profits from construction payroll spending, and \$3.4 billion in sales from construction-related activity in the four-state area. It also will generate more than \$149 million in tax revenue in the four states combined. The bulk of the impact is in Minnesota. The 8,000-job total in 2013 includes secondary jobs in sectors related to the construction, such as engineering, retail and restaurants, the study said.

The \$1.7 billion CapX2020 project will add 700 miles of overhead cables capable of moving 4,500 megawatts of electricity. The upgrade will expand the grid by about 30 percent and help move more wind-generated power.

-Minneapolis Star Tribune





Yes dear, I'm CERTAIN everything is fine at home.

Even when you're not there, protect your home and family against:

• Vandals & burglars	• Sump pump failure
• Smoke damage & fire	• Carbon monoxide poisoning
• Frozen pipes	• Power failure
• Flooded basement	• And more...







Call Heartland Security today for a free, no obligation security analysis: 1-888-264-6380 or visit www.heartlandss.com.

Purchase a new Heartland Security System by December 31 and receive three months of FREE monitoring. (Certain restrictions apply; cannot be combined with other offers.)




The Value of Electricity

A dollar's worth can get you:

36	
(intense) hours of gaming	
48	
hours of watching TV	
72	
freshly-ironed shirts	
72	
hours of laptop Internet access	
100	
hot pots of coffee	
375	
pieces of toast (nicely browned)	

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy; National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Scenic calendars available while supplies last

Scenic calendars for 2011 are available in the cooperative office while supplies last. They include photos from around Minnesota taken by employees of McLeod Cooperative Power and Kandiyohi Power Cooperative.

Holiday Treats December 15 & 16

Plan to visit the Co-op office at 1231 Ford Avenue in Glencoe on Wednesday, Dec. 15 or Thursday, Dec. 16 if you want to partake of holiday cookies, cider and coffee. Holiday treats will be available from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each of these days. Members may also want to pick up their 2011 scenic calendar.



Construction and Maintenance Report

November 2010

	<u>October</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
New services built	4	22	30	48
Service rebuilds	17	63	71	88
Service removals	8	29	24	16
Arlington work orders	0	6	11	7

- There were four work order pole changes.
- MCPA crews installed new sectionalizing fusing for Judson Woods. This will reduce the number of consumers affected by power outages if we have an underground cable failure.
- Highline Construction is finishing the construction and conversion project of 3.5 miles of existing single phase #4 ACSR line to a new three phase 4/0 ACSR line. This project is in Sibley County, Grafton Township & Renville County, Martinsburg Township.
- MCPA crews have been working on new services, service rebuilds and service removals.
- Carr's Tree Service has been working throughout our service territory taking care of numerous requests for tree removal and trimming due to the high winds and heavy snow sticking to trees and limbs which caused numerous power outages or the potential of outages.

Power Line Worker Scholarships Offered



Students accepted into one of Minnesota's three power line technology programs for the 2011-12 school term may apply for a \$500 scholarship. The Cooperative will award up to four \$500 scholarships for local students.

If you are graduating from a high school in McLeod, Renville, Sibley or Carver County or are a resident of one of those four counties, and have been accepted into the line worker program at Minnesota West in Jackson, Minnesota State in Wadena or Rosemount Technical College in Rosemount, you are eligible to apply.

Applications and informative career brochures are available by calling the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272. Applications must be completed and returned by April 15, 2011.

Volunteers needed for nominating committee

To elect directors in Districts 1, 2, and 3 at the 2011 Annual Meeting, we need members from those districts to serve on the Nominating Committee. Nominating Committee members participate in the election process by selecting director candidates and submitting their names to the Board for approval. They also assist with collecting and counting ballots at the Annual Meeting. Volunteers are needed from the following townships:

District 1 includes: Winsted, Bergen, and Helen Townships in McLeod County, and Victor Township in Wright County.

District 2 includes: Hassen Valley, Sumter, and Penn Townships in McLeod County.

District 3 includes: Acoma and Hutchinson Townships in McLeod County and Ellsworth and Collinwood Townships in Meeker County.

Call McLeod Cooperative Power before January 4, 2011, to let us know if you are willing to serve on your district's Nominating Committee. Nominating Committee meetings are set for February 3rd and 17th. The Annual Meeting is planned for April 12, 2011.

What makes a good director?

At McLeod Cooperative Power we believe that our Board of Directors comprises a strong connection with our membership and the community at large. Besides meeting the legal requirements for Director nomination, we are seeking individuals who hold some important personal characteristics. We've summarized these attributes below.

Possess a sincere interest in preserving the strength of the Cooperative's operations and maintaining a productive relationship with its consumer-members. McLeod Cooperative Power has assets of about \$25 million, employs 33 people and is responsible for providing quality electric service to more than 6,000 sites, as well as a variety of ancillary services. Our electric distribution system serves a diverse membership consisting of residences, farms, businesses and industries. While representing all members of the district, **Directors must work with each other to ensure equitable treatment to all members across the entire distribution system.**

Be willing and available to fully participate in the business activities of the Cooperative. Attendance is expected at all scheduled Board of Directors meetings. In addition, from time to time, Directors will be called upon to represent the Cooperative at other meetings and events where their presence is deemed to be beneficial to the Cooperative.

Remain accessible to the members whom they represent. Since the Directors are elected from and by the Cooperative's membership, it is important that they work to **maintain open lines of communication with their constituents. They should also strive to be knowledgeable about trends and circumstances that may impact the people and communities of central Minnesota.**

Be enthusiastic. During these times of accelerated change, we look for proactive, resourceful and inspired leadership.

MCPA Director Candidate Application

The undersigned, a member of McLeod Cooperative Power Association, hereby applies as a nominee for director of McLeod Cooperative Power Association from District _____ and requests that my name be considered by the Nominating Committee to be placed on the ballot for the next election for director from said district to be held at the next Annual Meeting, April 12, 2011.

I certify that my account is current and I am a member in good standing with McLeod Cooperative Power Association from District _____.

I certify that I am a resident of District _____ and am receiving electric energy from McLeod Cooperative Power Association.

I certify that I am not in a competing business with McLeod Cooperative Power Association.

If elected director, I agree to attend as many meetings of the Board of Directors as possible and to abide by the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws and Policies of McLeod Cooperative Power Association.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Applications must be returned to MCPA by January 21, 2011.



Give safety for Christmas – the perfect gift for the elderly parent who has everything else

As winter settles in and the holidays approach, have you thought about your parents living at home by themselves during the long winter season? How about the neighbors or other family members who have a hard time getting around or have some medical problems and need someone to check on them often?

McLeod Cooperative Power can help. One of the many services we have to offer you is the MainStreet Messenger. The MainStreet Messenger is a 24-hour emergency response system which offers assistance by simply pushing a button.

Whenever the alert key on a special telephone or the button on a cordless pendant is pressed, the phone automatically dials a preprogrammed help number at the monitoring center.

Once the connection is made, the speaker phone is automatically activated to allow hands-free, two-way voice communication. The monitoring center then contacts pre-determined numbers, such as a family member, neighbor, or 911, to let them know that help is needed while still staying on the line with the individual who needs help.

The cordless emergency response pendant is ideal for those who live alone and for people with mobility problems. In a crisis or any situation requiring immediate action, pressing the button on the pendant will initiate the emergency help sequence. In addition, incoming calls can be answered from across the room by the cordless pendant.

For a low monthly cost, you may have this easy-to-use security telephone system in your home or that of a family member. Call 1-800-494-6272 for more information.

Please do not plug in electric space heaters during load control times

The load management program is a good thing to have around. The program helps keep electric rates low for all members and provides a half-priced heating rate for members who participate in the program.

The program could lose much of its value, however, if electric space heaters are used during high-demand times. During load management control times, our power supplier is able to reduce electric load on the regional power system and thereby avoid buying higher cost supplemental power from the wholesale market. This is how we are able to offer a reduced off-peak rate. Plugging in electric space heaters during the times our billing peaks are established totally defeats the load management concept. It drives up the cost of power for all McLeod Cooperative Power members. The practice of plugging in space heaters and creating a demand during peak load conditions will inevitably cause a rate increase to all of our members. Control times occur most frequently between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. on weekday evenings, although they can happen anytime. The very cold nights in December, January, and February are often when our system peaks.

Members can go to the Cooperative's web site www.mcleodcoop.com at any time to check to see if load control is scheduled for that day. By the afternoon, specific control hours will be listed. Your help in reducing — not increasing — electric demand during control times will be greatly appreciated!

When is Dual Fuel controlled and why?

Members with Dual Fuel systems will periodically have their electric heat controlled as weather conditions, prices in the wholesale energy market, and regional power supplies dictate. Electric heat on Dual Fuel can be controlled for up to 400 hours per year and up to 12 hours in one stretch without recharge, so you want to make sure your back-up heating system is automatic and able to heat your home on the coldest winter nights for extended periods.

Although control most usually will occur between 4 and 10 p.m. on a week night, it can happen in the morning and it can happen on a weekend. It does not need to be a freezing cold night for load control to occur. When prices in the energy market are extremely high or regional power suppliers have plants down, control can

also occur. Dual Fuel control is posted on the Cooperative's web site www.mcleodcoop.com each day that heating will be controlled.

For members with peak shave water heaters, the control plan will be determined daily. Each day the Co-op will post on our web site (www.mcleodcoop.com) the planned water heater control for that week. Members without internet access may call our office to get that information.

Dual Fuel control times are available daily by going to the Cooperative's web site. Click on "Is today a Load Mgmt Control Day?" on our home page to get historical control times.

Comparative costs for space heating

You have to be able to buy heating fuel for less than the following cost to be cheaper than the 5 cent per kWh electric rate. The competing fuel costs below are approximately equal to the off-peak rate.

Fuel Oil standard efficiency furnace	\$1.23/gallon
Fuel Oil high efficiency furnace	\$1.64/gallon
Propane standard efficiency furnace	\$0.81/gallon
Propane super efficiency furnace	\$1.21/gallon
Natural gas standard efficiency furnace	\$8.79/MCF
Natural gas super efficiency furnace	\$13.18/MCF

Hi-Tech television from DIRECTV

This season all the rage in video seems to be DVRs, HD, and whole home HD DVRs. What are all the abbreviations about and what can this equipment do? And do I want this kind of equipment at my house?

HD stands for high definition. DIRECTV has high definition receivers to deliver the best video reproduction. You need a high definition TV to get HD channels. The cost per month for HD service from DIRECTV is \$10 per month.


DVR stands for digital video recorder. A DVR unit allows you to record programs even when you aren't home or if you are watching something else. You can stop and start live TV shows if you get interrupted while watching. Standard DVR service is an additional \$7 per month. HD DVRs are available and for HD DVR service it is the \$7

per month plus the \$10 you pay for HD programming.

Also available is whole home HD DVR where you record to a DVR and can replay what you recorded to any HD TV in your house.

Since this equipment is all the rage this holiday season, make sure to call in and order/reserve your DVR or HD receivers early. McLeod Co-op Power has been your source of DIRECTV equipment and programming since 1994.

Call us at 1-800-494-6272.



DIRECTV
rethink tv