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Official publication of



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## Storms June 21-23 cause outages throughout MCPA service area

The storms with torrential rain that hit Friday night, June 21 and again Sunday morning, June 23 kept line crews busy. Strong winds that took down trees onto power lines and lightning strikes caused most of the outages. Crews worked through the night Friday night and had the last members back on Saturday night about 8:30 p.m. Crews were called back out about 3:30 a.m. Sunday morning when storms moved through again. All crews were called back out and worked until the last member had their power restored just before noon on Sunday.

The most time-consuming part of the restoration was responding to so many individual outages scattered throughout four counties. Both of the storms caused numerous outages from Bird Island to

Green Isle and Watertown to Hutchinson and everything in between. Thank you to our members for your patience during the restoration period. We hope the outage map available on the Co-op's web site was helpful to our members.

Please remember that each member needs to call in to report their outage to 1-800-927-5685. We do not know if your home is out unless you call! Our automated systems can send us meter readings but not instantaneous outage status. And our outage map data is based on those members who call in to report they have an outage. Please do not depend on your neighbors to call. It could be an outage affecting only your residence. Our crew will not know to get your power back on until you call so please let us know you are out.



MCPA employees and their family members who volunteered to participate in the Glencoe Days Parade on June 22 included Ron Schiroo, Becky Schiroo, Jan Sanderson, Debbie Ebert, Katie Ide, Joel Ide, Hannah Ebert, and Sam Ebert. It was a hot and humid day, perfect for handing out freeze-pops to parade watchers.

## A few members may have estimated June bills

Due to the Highway 15 roundabout construction project near Menard's in Hutchinson, McLeod Cooperative Power had to re-route some power lines for the summer. This re-routing interferes with the transmission of data and meter readings from our Turtle automated meter reading devices. All the data is recorded and the Co-op will eventually receive it when the normal power flow is restored sometime in August. But for now, about 200 members will receive estimated bills for the month of June. You will know if you receive one, as the bill statement will say "Estimated" on it.

The estimated bills will go to mostly members residing in Hassan Valley Township of McLeod County, however a few members residing in Rich Valley, Hutchinson, Acoma, and Hale Townships of McLeod County will also be affected. As the construction project is not scheduled to be completed until sometime in August, the Cooperative will probably be reading those affected meters about August 1st to guarantee our members accurate billing over the summer months.

Any member receiving an "Estimated" billing may call the Cooperative office with questions or concerns. We will be happy to assist you.

## Farm Connections broadcast

Shannon Jerabek, an employee of McLeod Co-op Power, joins other energy auditors, members of the Clean Energy Resource Teams, lighting vendors, and a representative from Great River Energy on a turkey farm in Northfield. The group was part of a segment of Farm Connections, an agricultural program.

You can tune in to Episode 601 on YouTube to learn more about the energy-saving steps that help reduce the impact of energy costs on the farm's bottom line. KSMQ is in its fifth season of producing Farm Connections. You can watch the half-hour broadcast by visiting the home web page of McLeod Co-op Power at [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com) and clicking on the link.

# May Outage Summary

During the month of May the Cooperative had a total of 35 outages, affecting 188 consumers. The largest outage was caused by trees hanging into a line. It affected 94 consumers north of Glencoe and all the way up to Silver Lake, on Tuesday, May 14th in the evening. Patrolling the line took longer to do with Highway 15 closed due to bridge construction and finding the tree on the line, (which took out multiple fuses) was a bit of a challenge. It took over three hours to get some members back on.

Our second largest outage was a planned outage at 1:00 p.m. in the afternoon on May 14 south of Hutchinson. It lasted for 29 minutes and was required to do some preliminary work for the Hwy. 15 roundabout construction project.

Our third largest outage affected 11 members west of Lester Prairie on Monday, May 20th. Members were out a little over an hour due to a damaged fuse cutout.

The fourth largest outage affected 10 members north of Winthrop on Friday, May 10 about 9:00 a.m. It was caused by a motor vehicle or machinery and lasted one hour and twenty minutes.

Most outages affect only one or two members. They are frequently caused by small animals, trees in the line, equipment failure, or motor vehicle/machinery accidents. Larger outages affecting hundreds of members at a time are usually caused by transmission outages, storms, equipment failure to substation equipment, or accidents.

Restoration time on weekend and evening outages, when line crews are called out from home, usually take a little longer to get back on than outages when crews are already out working on the project.

# Lester Ranzau served on G&T board for 29 years

Lester Ranzau was recognized by Great River Energy (GRE) in June for his many years of service on the Great River Energy Board of Directors. Lester served 29 years on McLeod Cooperative Power's Generation & Transmission (G&T) board — first on Cooperative Power's board from 1984 until 1999, when Cooperative Power merged with United Power Association to form Great River Energy, and from 1999 through 2013 he continued to represent us on the GRE board.

During his years serving as a G&T director Lester has seen some major changes take place at the cooperatives, including the merger of Cooperative Power and UPA, the addition of several peaking plants, the development and sales of fly ash, the development of the DryFining process at Coal Creek Station, and GRE building a new headquarters building in Maple Grove. The Spiritwood Development, which is scheduled to be on-line in 2014, was also a significant project approved by the GRE board.

Lester reflected, "It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve as a representative for McLeod Co-op Power on the Great River Energy Board of Directors." He added, "I wish success to Great River Energy in any future endeavors."

Lester stepped down from the GRE board seat this year, and the MCPA board selected Oria Brinkmeier of Lester Prairie to now serve as the representative to the GRE board.



GRE President Michael Thorson (on left) listens as Lester Ranzau (on right) addresses his fellow directors at the conclusion of GRE's annual meeting on June 12. Ranzau and four other long-term GRE directors were honored for their years of service to the organization with appreciation awards.



Great River Energy CEO David Saggau gives Lester Ranzau a hearty handshake and thank you for decades of service on the G&T board.

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### McLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER NEWS

USPS 2220

Periodicals Postage Paid at Hutchinson, MN

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

McLeod Cooperative Power News

P O Box 70, Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

The **McLeod Cooperative Power News** is published monthly for \$4.75 per year for members and \$8 per year for non-members by McLeod Cooperative Power Association 1231 Ford Ave. North, Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

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The **McLeod Cooperative Power News** is the official member publication of **McLeod Coop Power Association**

and focuses on our members, programs and events. All member story ideas and comments are welcome. Send to Sue Pawelk at the address shown.

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Gopher State One Call 1-800-252-1166

# CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS THAT CAME BACK

We are looking for current mailing addresses of the following former Co-op members who had capital credit checks returned to us by the post office in 2012 - 2013. These were for 1993 revenue and a portion of 2011 revenue. Please notify our office if you have a current mailing address for anyone listed or you may have the consumer below contact us directly. Thank you for your help.

ADAMIETZ, MARK BROWNTON, MN	BUERKLE, LAWRENCE EXCELSIOR, MN	FARR, DARRELL ROBBINSDALE, MN	HLAVACEK, MARLYCE COSMOS, MN	KRAUSE, LAURA & CODY WACONIA, MN	NANCE, ROBERT HUTCHINSON, MN	QUIRING, TODD WESTBROOK MN	SMITH, ROBERT WINTHROP, MN
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BUCKALEW, WILLIAM E HILLMAN, MN	EMERSON, DAVID E FARMERS BRANCH, TX	HIRZEL, ROXANNE WINTHROP, MN	KRAFT, DAVID ANNANDALE, MN	MURPHY, ROBERT HECTOR, MN	PRECHT, QUINT HUTCHINSON, MN	PRECHT, QUINT HUTCHINSON, MN	
	ERNST, MARTY EAU CLAIRE, WI			MYERS, MARK G HUTCHINSON, MN	PRIOR, NEAL HUTCHINSON, MN	PRIOR, NEAL HUTCHINSON, MN	

# Use these tips to ensure fond summer memories

**W**hen the weather gets hot, we head outdoors for sun and fun. Keep in mind some tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International to make sure everyone has a safe summer.

## Water and electricity don't mix

Summer is the season for swimming and boating, and awareness of electrical hazards around water can prevent deaths and injuries.

- Sailboats often have masts of 30 feet or more, which are dangerous when they come into contact with overhead power lines. Look up as you get close to shore, and stay at least 10 feet



**A boat mast can easily tip into electrical lines, causing electrocution. Look up before sailing near shorelines.**

away from overhead lines. Coming into contact with an energized power line causes serious and sometimes lethal electric shock.

- Use covers on outdoor power outlets, especially near

swimming pools. Keep cords and electrical devices away from the water, and never handle electrical items before you've dried off.

- Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries. These devices interrupt the flow of power when they sense a surge. Portable GFCIs require no tools to install and are available at prices ranging from \$12 to \$30.

## Use common sense

- Never climb a utility pole or tower. Don't play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment. Electrical power poles and utility equipment



**Outside, install ground fault interrupter outlets, which will short out when anything that is plugged into them comes into contact with water. They could save a life.**

should never be used as a playground.

- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines aren't touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.
- Fly kites and model airplanes safely away from trees and overhead power lines. If a kite gets tangled in a tree that's near power lines, don't climb up to get it. Contact your electric utility for assistance.
- Never go into an electric substation. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment, which can kill you. Don't retrieve a toy or rescue a pet that goes inside. Call your electric utility instead.

Continued on Page 5

## Farmfest 2013 – August 6, 7, 8! – Gilfillan Estate in Redwood County, MN



### THE Largest Outdoor Agricultural Event in Minnesota!

See us in booth #2301 in the Ag Tent!

As your Minnesota Ag Connection, Farmfest consistently:

- Connects 35,000+ attendees with over 625 local and leading companies in the farming industry.
- Features highly topical educational and political forums highlighting topics relevant to the issues that face today's farmers.
- Presents successful field demonstrations which feature the latest technological advancements in the farming industry.
- Offers programs and entertainment for the family.



Farmfest strives to provide both the traditional programs that bring attendees back year after year while also offering new dynamic events and programs which are designed both to entertain and entice new attendees. Join us August 6-8 at the Gilfillan Estate in Redwood County, Minnesota!

As a trusted resource with more than 30 years of proven credibility, Farmfest connects industry leading manufacturers/providers with decision-making producers. Visit the Co-op booth #2301 in the Ag tent.

**Farmfest Hours** – Tues – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.,  
Wed – 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.,  
Thurs – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission \$10 per person – 18 and under are FREE! FREE PARKING!

Use this Farmfest Coupon to receive a FREE LED night light compliments of your Cooperative!

Visit us at Farmfest 2013 as we promote electric safety along with other Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives from Minnesota.

Hundreds are killed and thousands are injured each year in the United States as a result of electrically-related incidents. We don't want you to be one of them.

**Stay Safe!**

\*MUST HAVE COUPON. SORRY, NO EXCEPTIONS.

Use LED night lights for safer hallways, bathrooms, stairways and more. They cost only pennies to operate and last tens of thousands of hours! Thank you for being a Cooperative member.

Bring this coupon to booth #2301 in the Ag Tent on Aug. 6-8 to receive a FREE LED night light!



**Meeker Cooperative**  
Light and Power Association

**McLeod**  
COOPERATIVE POWER

- Look up and around you. Always be aware of the location of power lines, particularly when using long metal tools like ladders and pool skimmers.

### Lightning and storms

Lightning strikes are fatal in 10 percent of victims, and 70 percent suffer serious long-term effects, according to the National Weather Service. Because lightning can travel sideways for up to 10 miles, blue skies are not a sign of safety. If you hear thunder, take cover.

- If weather conditions indicate a storm, stay inside—away from doors and windows—or seek shelter in a low-lying area away from trees and any metal, including sheds, clotheslines, poles, and fences. If you're near water, stay as far away as possible.
- If you're in a group, spread out—don't stand close together.
- Don't forget about your pets. Doghouses are not safe from lightning, and chained animals are easy targets.
- If your home is flooded during a storm, don't turn on appliances or electronics until given the okay by an electrician. If there's standing water, don't go inside. The water could be energized.

### Working with large appliances

If your air conditioner goes out, keep a few



**Never locate electrical appliances such as lamps, heaters, grills, etc. anywhere near water. Teach your family to dry off before touching anything electrical.**

things in mind before you start poking around. Large appliances, such as air conditioners, are responsible for almost 20 percent of consumer-product electrocutions each year.

- Understand your electrical system—know which fuse or circuit breaker controls each switch, light, and outlet.
- Make sure circuits are turned off before starting work and take measures to ensure they're not turned back on while working.
- Use a circuit tester—always test before you touch.

Find more safety tips at [esfi.org](http://esfi.org) and at [safeelectricity.org](http://safeelectricity.org)

# INDUSTRY News

## Wind farm sued by state files Chapter 7 bankruptcy

**R**enewable Energy SD, a seller of wind energy equipment that was sued for fraud by the Minnesota attorney general's office, has filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy.

The attorney general's lawsuit, filed in Hennepin County District Court in January, alleges that the company and its sole owner, Shawn Dooling, 46, of Shorewood, sold farmers in Minnesota and elsewhere faulty wind turbines using federal stimulus money aimed at helping the country during the recession. The company either failed to deliver many of the turbines or, in some cases, erected turbines that failed to perform properly or at all, the suit says. About 15 civil lawsuits have been filed against Renewable Energy SD by its customers or suppliers.

Renewable Energy SD was forced to stop selling wind generators in Minnesota after the attorney general's office obtained an injunction against the sales, said spokesman Ben Wogsland of the attorney general's office. The suit is pending until a judge determines whether the company should pay restitution or fines, and whether the company will have any funds with which to pay them, Wogsland said.

A spokesman for Renewable Energy said the state's lawsuit forced the Chapter 7 filing. "The bankruptcy filing was unavoidable because the company was out of business and had no way to fund its defense in multiple court cases," Renewable Energy attorney Michael McGrath, of Ravich Meyer in Minneapolis, said in an interview Monday. Most of the assets listed in the Renewable Energy bankruptcy filing appear to be speculative. About \$6 million of the reported \$6.2 million in assets are in the form of anticipated proceeds from a \$6 million breach-of-contract and fraud lawsuit that Renewable Energy filed against wind turbine manufacturer Polaris America LLC of New Jersey and its CEO, Christopher Filos.

In its suit, the attorney general's office said farmers were told by Renewable Energy SD that the wind turbines would produce excess energy that could be sold to the power grid, earning them \$700 to \$1,300 a month — money that could be used to recoup their initial costs within five to 10 years. The company promised to quickly obtain the necessary permits, apply for stimulus funds and bank loans, and build and maintain the turbines.

But the company broke its promises repeatedly, the attorney general's suit alleged. When farmers complained, the company refused to refund their money and pressured them to buy upgraded equipment to salvage their initial investment. In some cases, the more-expensive replacements also failed or produced just a fraction of the promised energy, the lawsuit alleged. McGrath disagreed. Renewable Energy SD "did not admit any wrongdoing in the attorney general's action," he said.

But one Renewable Energy customer recalls it differently. "I've never run into a scam this big, and I hope never to run into another one like it," said Gerald Crowell, a farmer near Windom, Minn., in an interview Monday. He bought a windmill from Renewable Energy for \$200,000 in 2010, and paid for half of it in advance. A tower for the windmill was constructed, but he never received a wind turbine to put on it. Crowell suspected something was wrong when Renewable Energy asked him last year for another \$100,000 payment in advance of the project's completion. But Crowell refused: "I figured they were going to go belly up."

~Star-Tribune

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## Energy grants help business members increase efficiency and lower energy costs

**T**etra Pak CPS and Tetra Pak TPPSA of Winsted are manufacturers of cheese making equipment and provide solutions for evaporated and dried powder technologies. Both companies are part of Tetra Pak, the world's leading food processing and packaging solutions company.

Tetra Pak qualified for an energy grant when they updated to more efficient lighting in an existing building. They also qualified for an energy grant by installing high-efficiency rooftop HVAC units and high-efficiency lighting in a new building. The energy grants help to provide financial assistance to businesses investing in smart energy technologies that will increase their efficiency and lower their energy use. This in turn saves the company money, so they can spend it elsewhere in their operation.

Tetra Pak employees worked with McLeod Cooperative Power's energy management specialists to calculate the energy savings from each of the lighting and equipment installations they were considering. Together they were able to determine which projects would save them the most money and which lighting options best fit their needs. Energy grants are based on the number of kilowatt hours that can be saved and the reduction in kW demand. Some of the efficient lighting and HVAC choices are shown in the photos.

Any farm, business, or industrial customer of McLeod Cooperative Power is encouraged to contact the Co-op before starting with a lighting retrofit, HVAC replacement, equipment upgrade, building a new building, etc., to see if their project will qualify for an energy grant or to learn if there are even more efficient options available that they have not yet explored.



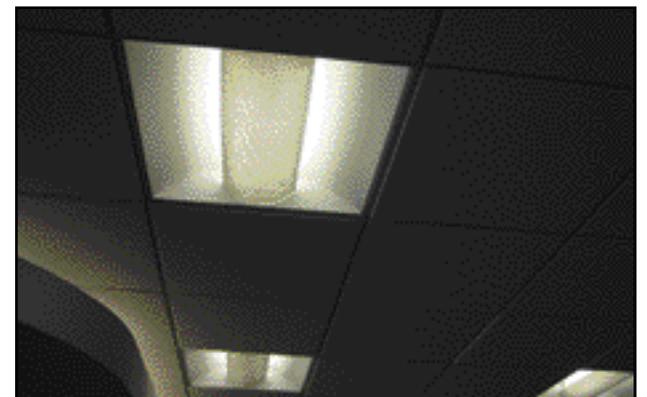
Six-lamp T-5 high-bay fixtures use only 358 watts each. Tetra Pak installed these in their new building in 2012. This is an improvement over the 400-watt metal halide fixtures, used in many applications with high ceilings, and consume over 425 watts each. Plus the T-5 high bay fixtures have a better light output.



These 17 watt LED can lights would replace 65 watt incandescent lights or 23 watt fluorescent lamps. LED (light emitting diode) fixtures are one of the newest and most efficient type of lighting, but in a few applications the cost of the fixture needs to come down to make the conversion more cost effective.

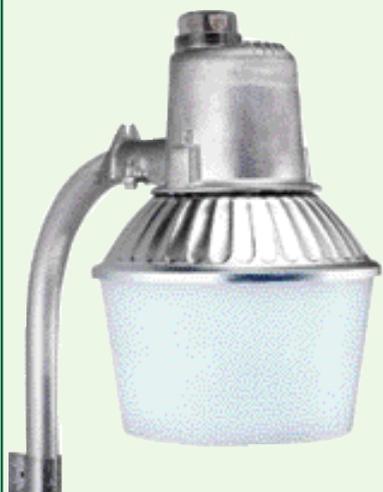


Several 12.5 ton 13 SEER roof top units can do most of the heating and cooling for the building. They operate as an air source heat pump.



Two-foot two-lamp T-8 fixtures that use 18.3 watts replaced T-8 lamps that used 31 watts per fixture. Lighting retrofits that reduce the energy use and kW demand often qualify for energy grants from the Cooperative for commercial applications.

## Only unmetered yard lights will be installed in the future



**M**any MCPA members have yard lights. Some are the metered variety where the energy used by the light is recorded on the electric meter. The other variety is the unmetered light where the energy used by the light does not go through the meter and the monthly rental fee includes average kWh used by a light. The monthly rental fee for an unmetered light is higher but it does include the energy the light uses.

In the future, McLeod Cooperative will only be installing the unmetered lights. The transition away from metered fixtures is due to the high cost of keeping the metered lights working when they often utilize

wires and connections owned by the member. The unmetered lights are powered by the Co-op owned transformer and conductors which are all located at the top of the pole, and are less costly for us to maintain.

Those members who currently have metered lights will be able to keep their lights until such a time that they may fail and need to be replaced. At that time, the Co-op will assist the member in determining if a replacement with an unmetered light will work. The Cooperative will work with each member individually when more than a simple repair or bulb change is required and a replacement or removal of the light are required.

**Focus on Operation Round Up recipient:**

**American Red Cross**



Local Disaster Action Team responding to a disaster.

The American Red Cross chapter headquartered in Mankato, MN, provides disaster relief to those in McLeod, Renville and Sibley Counties, as well as serving five other counties in south central Minnesota. Last year they provided services to 1,568 people total and 447 in McLeod, Renville and Sibley Counties. Included in this number are the 40+ Hutchinson residents who received food, shelter, clothing, and other services when they were displaced after large apartment fires last year.

Over 210 times a day across the country, the Red Cross responds to disasters and other catastrophic events. In Minnesota, they respond every 14 hours to a disaster in local communities. However, they are not just responding, they are helping their friends and neighbors get back on their feet and rebuild their lives. Through their blood services, they are able to provide blood and blood products to local hospitals, ensuring those in need have the lifesaving blood they need.

The Red Cross provides assistance to residents who have lost their home and/or belongings to natural and man-made disasters such as fire, flood, or tornado. Disaster relief can include food, clothing, shelter, disaster health and mental health services and more. The severity of the disaster dictates the assistance. They also recruit and train volunteers, and provide specialized training for individuals interested in receiving training at the advanced level to supervise and direct disaster operations. The American Red



Local responder Walter Roberts comforts an individual displaced by disaster.

Cross also provides disaster preparedness education to the public on how to prepare for and react to disasters. Each year they teach first aid from children up to professional responders. The Red Cross teaches thousands how to swim each year and provides trained lifeguards for the many swimming spots in Minnesota.

The American Red Cross received a \$500 grant from McLeod Cooperative Power's Operation Round Up Trust. The group had requested \$2,000 but our Operation Round Up Trust was unable to donate that large of an amount due to our level of participation from members. We would really like to see the number of members who round up their bill to the nearest dollar increase so we could meet the funding needs of more of the organizations that apply. It would make it possible for groups like the Red Cross to get a higher level of funding for disaster relief, volunteer training, and disaster preparedness prevention. Just fill out the coupon to join Operation Round Up.



*Members helping members and members helping their community = Operation Round Up*

Members giving a few cents by rounding up their electric bill can multiply to dollars for local charities that build up our whole community. Members who sign up for Operation Round Up will have their monthly electric bill rounded up to the nearest dollar.

Yes, sign me up for Operation Round Up. I understand that my bills will be rounded up to the next dollar amount and the proceeds will be used for local charitable programs.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Rebate funds still available for a short time**

Rebates for load management, Energy Star appliances, and energy conservation grants will have limited funding for 2013. Rebates will be processed on a first come, first serve basis and when we run out of funding for 2013, rebates will cease. So do not delay if you are planning on making a purchase of an energy-efficient heat pump, refrigerator or other eligible product, especially if you are counting on a rebate. Make your purchase and turn in your rebate paperwork right away.

and installed to qualify for rebate funds. If you are planning a project and depending on rebate funds, please call the Cooperative and we can give you an estimate on the amount of rebate dollars still available at that time.

If you have questions on rebates for 2013 call the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272. Visit our website at [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com) to download rebate forms for ground source heat pumps and appliances. Forms for air source heat pump installations are completed by your certified installer.

Rebates are limited to \$2,000 maximum per consumer. Equipment must be purchased

**Changes to ENERGY STAR rebate program for 2013**

Rebates for high-efficiency heat pumps will continue to require installation by a "registered contractor" which has been designated as a quality installer and is listed on the [hvacaducation.net](http://hvacaducation.net) web site. A list of all "registered contractors" in Minnesota is on our Cooperative web site at [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com).

**\$2000 maximum rebate per member. All 2013 rebates are on a first-come, first-served basis, while funds last. Refrigerator/freezer units will require recycling of the old unit to qualify for rebates.**

**2013 Rebates**

**Ground Source Heat Pumps** (controlled or uncontrolled)

Residential .....	\$400/ton
Commercial .....	\$400/ton

**Air Source Heat Pump**

13 SEER .....	\$330
14 SEER .....	\$480
15 SEER .....	\$580
16 SEER or higher .....	\$630

**Ductless Air Source Heat Pump**.....\$300

**Storage Space Heating** .....\$ 40/kW

**ECM Motor**.....\$100

**Uncontrolled electric water heater** going on the Storage Water Heating with high efficiency water heater\* .....\$300

**New construction or gas conversion to Storage Water Heating\*** .....\$300

**Peak shave to Storage Water Heating\*** .....\$300

**Heat pump water heater - new construction**.....\$100

**Heat pump water heater replacing non-controlled electric** .....\$200

**ENERGY STAR Refrigerator with recycling of old unit** .....\$75

**ENERGY STAR Freezer with recycling of old unit** .....\$75

\* (Marathon or equivalent energy rated heater)

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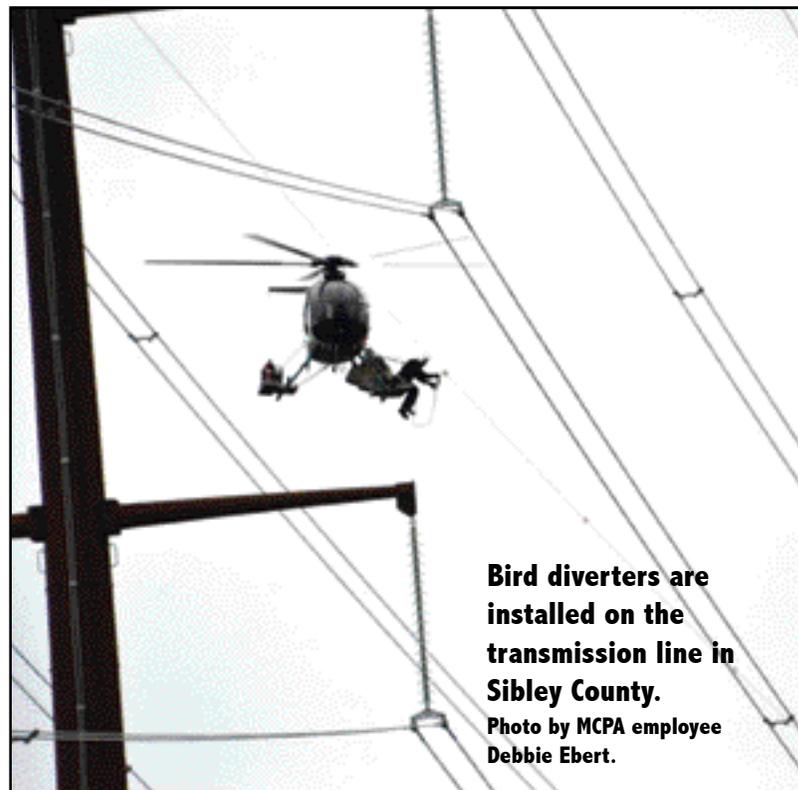
## CapX2020 used helicopters to string wire on several structures near the Minnesota River



**The lead line is being installed south of the Cedar Mountain Substation in Renville County using a helicopter.**

In May, CapX2020 construction crews used helicopters to install wire on several structures at the Minnesota River near Redwood Falls. Work included attaching wire from the side of a helicopter. The wire installed is called "lead line," which is then connected to the permanent wire and pulled through with ground-based machinery. Using helicopters to perform work enables wire to be installed in difficult-to-access areas, and helps protect sensitive environmental areas, such as wetlands. Helicopters were also used to install bird diverters in Sibley County.

The Brookings County-Hampton project is a 25-mile 345 kV transmission line between the Brookings County Substation in South Dakota, and the Hampton Substation in Dakota County, Minnesota. The first segment, between Renville County and Scott County, is expected to be energized this summer; the segment between Renville County and Lyon County is expected to be energized in early 2014.



**Bird diverters are installed on the transmission line in Sibley County.**

**Photo by MCPA employee Debbie Ebert.**