

Inside this issue...



Thefts from electric utilities illegal and dangerous

4



Providing energy, respecting nature

6



Operation RoundUp® recipient Heartland Community Action Agency

7

Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com



Kelsey Kramer represents McLeod Co-op in Washington DC

I would like to thank McLeod Co-op and members for the generous opportunity I received attending the Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington D.C. in June.

It was a great learning opportunity. We toured many places including the Newseum, Ford's Theatre,

Arlington Cemetery, the Smithsonian Museums, Mount Vernon, the Holocaust Museum, the Capitol, Lincoln Memorial, Iwo Jima Statue, the Vietnam Memorial, the 9/11 Memorial, and the WWII Memorial. I had the opportunity to have breakfast and visit with our congressional representative, Al

Franken. The knowledge, friendships, and memories that I experienced will assist me throughout life. I was honored to represent McLeod Cooperative Power.

Thank You,
Kelsey Kramer

Rebate funds exhausted for 2013

The residential rebate fund has been exhausted for 2013. This includes rebates for energy-efficient appliances, heating systems, water heating systems and cooling systems.

Although there is no longer money available for rebates, the Co-op will continue to accept rebate forms from members as they complete projects or purchase qualified appliances, filing them on a first-come first-serve basis. There may be a slim chance that some cooperatives could have unused funds left at the end of the year that can be reallocated for use by co-ops that ran out of funds. The storage space heating rebate has been reduced to \$15 per kW, but some funds remain.

There is still some funding available for farm and commercial energy efficiency grants. So any business considering an efficiency project should contact the Cooperative to see if their upgrade qualifies for funding.

If you would like more information or have any questions about the Co-op's rebate programs, please contact us.



Kevin Inman is new Operations Manager

Kevin Inman was hired to be McLeod Cooperative Power's new Operations Manager. He started employment at the Co-op July 1. He has taken over the

responsibilities of Mark Walford, who retired the end of May. Kevin supervises the line department and manages the construction and operations functions of the Cooperative.

Kevin has worked as a journeyman lineman, journeyman meter technician, and Energy Management Director for a cooperative in Wisconsin and was recently an Electrical Power Distribution instructor for a technical college. He also is a graduate of the Management Internship Program.

Kevin, his wife, and two daughters have relocated to the area. They look forward to becoming a part of the McLeod Cooperative Power family and making a difference for our members.

June Outage Summary

During the month of June, the Cooperative had a total of 100 outages, affecting 776 consumers. The June 21-23 storms that brought heavy rains also brought lightning, wind and tree damage. From Friday night on June 21st through Sunday afternoon on June 23rd, MCPA line crews responded to 67 outages, affecting 574 members. The outages were scattered throughout the entire service area. This made up 67% of our outages for the month of June.

Storms that moved through on Wednesday, June 12, interrupted power to 41 members south of Hutchinson due to a tree on the lines, 36 members north of Hector due to wind damage, and 16 members east of Winsted due to lightning.

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 restore than outages that happen when crews are already out working in the service territory.

Protecting your identity is a priority at MCPA

Red Flag Rules have been in place for several years at the Co-op. They are designed to help prevent identity theft. To comply with these laws, McLeod Cooperative Power requires more information from those persons applying for service and we verify their identity. **This means that if you are a new member applying for service you will be asked to provide your social security number, as well as your name, address and basic information. If you do not wish to provide your social security number you will need to come to the office in person and present a government-issued photo identification such as a driver's license or passport.** This protects you from someone else setting up an account in your name. It also helps the Co-op

keep anyone from setting up an account using a false name.

For existing members, we will only be able to discuss your account with you if you are the member listed on the bill, unless you have authorized us to let your spouse or another family member have access to your billing information. If they take care of the billing questions but their name is not on the bill, you can have the Co-op mail out an authorization form for you to give permission to a specified individual to be authorized to discuss your account information. Just call the office to request the authorization form or stop in the office to sign one. The other option is to have the account placed in both of your names.

Office closed Labor Day



McLeod Cooperative Power's office will be closed Monday, September 2, in observance of Labor Day. Emergency and outage dispatchers are on duty

24 hours a day and can be reached by calling 1-800-927-5685.

Save Money on Your Home Heating Costs



Start saving money while enjoying great comfort by installing a Steffes Heating System. Most home owners have saved 50% or more on their annual heating bill.*

Learn more by contacting your local Power Company or go to heatforlessnow.com for more information.

Call today and start saving money!

*This is based on real savings, no gimmicks.

SAVE 50%
OR MORE!

STEFFES Heating Systems

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1

Oria Brinkmeier, **Lester Prairie**

District 2

Dale Peters, Secretary-Treasurer
Brownton

District 3

Roger Karstens, Vice President
Hutchinson

District 4

Doug Kirtz, **Hector**

District 5

Allan Duesterhoeft, **Hutchinson**

District 6

Lester Ranzau
Glencoe

District 7

Randy Hlavka
Silver Lake

District 8

Keith Peterson, President
Hector

District 9

Gerald Roepke, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer
New Germany

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

General Manager: Kris Ingenthron
Editor: Sue Pawelk

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.

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 320-864-3148

1-800-494-6272

24-hour outage: 1-800-927-5685

Fax: 320-864-4850

Web site: www.mcleodcoop.com

Gopher State One Call 1-800-252-1166

Great River Energy on path to meet many climate goals

Great River Energy is well on its way to meeting many of the goals set out in President Obama's recently announced Climate Action Plan.

The organization has reduced power plant emissions, increased the use of renewable energy and provided cooperative members with new and innovative ways to save energy.

Great River Energy also has invested in new technology, DryFining®, which uses waste heat to reduce moisture in and refine lignite coal, producing the same amount of electricity with four percent less fuel and fewer emissions.

Great River Energy is licensing the technology to companies in other countries to assist in international emissions reductions.

"We have been leaders in the use of renewable energy and developing innovative ways to reduce power plant emissions," said CEO David Saggau. "These investments help Great River Energy deliver on its mission of providing its members with reliable energy at competitive rates in harmony with a sustainable environment."

Since 2006, the carbon emission intensity of Great River Energy's generation portfolio has decreased 20 percent, while electricity production is up. Plus, a variety of energy efficiency programs have helped co-op members reduce their overall electricity usage, saving enough electricity in 2012 to power nearly 10,000 homes. Great River Energy has been able to make these investments while keeping its rates below the weighted regional average.



"We want to make sure that our impressive emissions reductions are taken into account during the upcoming regulatory process. It's also critical that any economic impact to our members is considered when new climate change regulations are drafted," Saggau added. "We are committed to working through state and federal regulatory processes to ensure that electric cooperative members are not adversely affected by any new regulations."

The president's plan also calls for modernization of the electricity grid.

Once again Great River Energy is a leader in the effort to do so. The organization is a partner in CapX2020, a statewide effort to upgrade and expand the electric grid, which will significantly reduce system losses and improve market efficiency, reliability and security. Efforts to make the grid "smarter" are also underway.

Ridgewater Foundation awards MCPA scholarships

McLeod Cooperative Power Association (MCPA) is allowed to donate unclaimed capital credit funds to an educational foundation if, after seven years, the funds remain unclaimed. So MCPA donates the funds to Ridgewater College Foundation. The foundation selects local students who meet set criteria to receive the \$500 scholarships each year. A total of \$6,000 in scholarships were awarded to 12 students for Spring and Fall semesters in 2013.

Recipients for Spring semester 2013 were

- Rebecca Albers of New Germany
- Cassidy Anderson of Buffalo Lake
- Paige Lemke of Hutchinson
- Jennifer Miller of Hutchinson
- Crystal Nesenson of Hutchinson
- Dawn White of Carver.

The Fall 2013 recipients of \$500 were

- Matthews Garrels of Hutchinson
- Cora Howell of Hutchinson
- Janett Huerta of Winthrop
- Crystal Nesenson of Hutchinson
- Damaris Nyankabaria of Hutchinson
- Brittani Ruschmeyer of Gaylord.

Replace your old water heater with a new energy-saving Marathon



When you replace an old water heater (especially if it is leaking or having reliability issues) with a Marathon water heater, you start saving energy and money. Since the durable inner tank is encased in 2.5 inches of polyurethane foam insulation, there is almost zero heat loss through the walls of the tank. Your energy consumption will be cut as skin loss is minimized.

Marathon water heaters also have a protective outer coat. The tank and insulation are enclosed within a durable, dent-resistant, molded-polyethylene outer jacket. The inner tank is corrosion resistant. The seamless, blow-molded polybutene inner tank is wrapped in multiple layers of filament-wound fiberglass, making it impervious to the rust and corrosion that can sharply curtail the operational lives of conventional water heaters tanks.

The 50, 85 and 105 gallon Marathon tanks sold by the Cooperative for residential use have a lifetime warranty against leaking for as long as you live in your home. If your tank fails, you get a new Marathon with no pro-rating deductions. No rust and no corrosion — ever! Marathon

residential models have a six-year warranty on elements and thermostats.

Getting the new, high-efficiency water heater is Step 1. The next step to gain some financial savings is to join the Hot Water Storage Program, where heating water is at half the regular electric rate. An average family of four can save \$35-\$40 a month if they are currently heating their water on the uncontrolled electric rate. By participating in the Storage Water Heating Program, where water is heated from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily, members can save hundreds of dollar a year. This is a popular program — more than 1,200 of our accounts participate in Hot Water Storage.

The Co-op guarantees your satisfaction with the program if you size the water heater according to our recommendations. For most families, an 85 or 105 gallon water heater will work. The Co-op provides a mixing valve at no cost when you join the Water Storage Program to increase the gallons you get from your tank per day.

Call the Energy Experts at McLeod Co-op Power to get details on Marathon water heaters and the storage program.

Thefts from electric utilities not only illegal, they're dangerous

As thefts of copper and electricity from electric utilities make the news, your Cooperative is not immune from potential losses due to illegal activity of this type. Although electric thieves may have a measure of success in the short-term, these thefts are ultimately caught and will result in criminal charges or, in the case of the would-be copper theft case, potential bodily harm or death.



Your Co-op encourages all its membership to be alert to any activity near substations or poles that seems suspicious or is not accompanied by a utility vehicle. If you see any such activity, please contact your Cooperative immediately.

Redwood County charges two for stealing electricity

The *West Central Tribune* of Willmar reported that a Redwood Falls man is facing felony theft charges for allegedly stealing electricity from the utilities serving his home and business, and his father-in-law is accused of aiding and abetting the thefts.

The Redwood County Attorney's office filed amended charges of felony theft on June 6, against Timothy Dean Wertish, 41, of Redwood Falls. It filed amended charges of aiding and abetting theft and conspiracy to commit theft against Terry Dean Johnson, 65, of rural Spicer and also of Springfield.

According to the complaints, Johnson is a certified electrician who operates and owns Springfield Plumbing and Heating. The complaints state that in November 2009, construction crews at the Timothy Wertish residence cut the electrical supply line. Johnson altered the wiring at the residence so that electricity



to a machine shed was not metered. The complaint charges that Wertish stole between \$5,400 to \$6,300 worth of electricity from the Redwood Electric Cooperative from November 2009 to May 31, 2013, that was not metered.

The complaints also allege that Johnson installed a second electrical panel and altered the wiring at the Redwood Auto Sales building on the 1600 block of East Bridge Street in Redwood Falls. The wiring was altered so that electricity to a 20-kilowatt boiler that heats the entire building was not metered.

The complaints allege that from October 1, 2009, to May 31, 2013, Wertish stole \$7,531.21 worth of electricity.

Copper theft suspect found dead in Haverhill, Minn.

As reported on the *Electric Co-op Today* website, an attempted copper theft from a southeastern Minnesota electric cooperative's utility pole apparently resulted in the suspect's electrocution, according to investigators.

A metal theft suspect was found dead at the base of a People's Energy Cooperative pole in Haverhill, Minn., June 18.

The incident is among the latest in a series of metal theft investigations completed or under way in southern Minnesota, where authorities have noted an upswing in unauthorized salvage activity since late 2012.

In the June 18 case, the suspected thief came in contact with an energized People's Energy Cooperative power line on a rural road in Haverhill Township.

An anonymous 911 caller "made a statement to our dispatcher that 'he's fallen, send help,'" said Capt. Scott Behrns of the Olmsted County Sheriff's Department. "When officers responded, they found a 21-year-old local male dead at the scene."

It appeared the suspect, Alexander David Crandall of Oronoco, was trying to take metal off of a power pole, said Behrns. "He was killed instantly."

Metal thefts from utility poles and television and radio towers have been ongoing issues in southeastern Minnesota, said Behrns.

"The high cost of scrap metal is making this worth it for the people, but sometimes the results are deadly."

An area extending from southeastern Minnesota and

northeastern Iowa to the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul has seen increased illegal drug activity and a corresponding uptick in metal theft, Behrns added.



When arrests have been made, or evidence collected during autopsies, investigators have noted a common thread connecting many of the cases to the area's illegal drug trade.

"It can be summed up in one word—methamphetamine," said Behrns. "The majority of the scrap metal theft is done by people connected to the use, distribution or sale of meth."

Authorities have urged utilities, contractors and others to encourage the public, including consumer-members of electric cooperatives, to report any suspicious activity.

"This is part of our continuing electric safety education program," said Tyler Larsen, a member relations specialist at People's Energy Cooperative. The Oronoco-based co-op serves nearly 12,000 meters in Olmsted and five other counties in southern Minnesota.

"We tell our members to contact us or the authorities anytime they see suspicious activities at one of our substations or near our power lines," said Larsen. "If there is no co-op vehicle at the scene, it should be reported."



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Bad news is making headlines...

What can you do?

Drug-related burglaries on the increase. Storms flood basements. Fires destroy homes and leave families homeless.

All this bad news makes some of us want to shut off our T.V. and cancel our newspaper subscription. But hiding from the news won't change the news. In fact, being informed and prepared is the best way to prevent making headlines yourself.



Did you know that...

- 60% of burglaries are residential
- Homes without security systems are 300% more likely to be broken into
- There's one fire reported in Minnesota every 32 minutes
- 66% of fire deaths in Minnesota during 2012 were in rural, out-state areas
- 76% of reported fires in 2012 were residential
- Increasing severe weather frequency and intensity is being predicted, leading to a greater chance of flooding.

Have you considered a security system?

Security systems were invented for one reason only — to protect homes, families and business assets from tragedy.

Most standard security systems operate the same way. You can arm and disarm the system using a key-pad located right inside your most-used door.

A more technologically-advanced system allows you to control your home's security system from the convenience of your smart phone or tablet. With this type of system, you can arm/disarm your system, control your home's temperature, monitor when your children came home or left home, and even turn your lights off and on.

Heartland Security, partly owned by your Cooperative, offers all of this, plus much more.

Heartland Security is an award-winning, full-service security agency with a track-record spanning years of

service to their thousands of safe, satisfied customers across Minnesota and Iowa. Their commitment to excellent customer service, customized security design and professional 24/7 monitoring is second to none.

Best of all, they offer packages to fit any budget, including a standard package that features a control panel, interior siren, deluxe keypad, three door sensors and one motion sensor beginning at \$95 installed. Home monitoring cost ranges from \$15 to \$35 a month depending on the type of monitoring required.

Heartland also offers water sensors to protect against flooding damage in your lower level; smoke detectors to prevent your home being destroyed in a fire; screen or glass sensors to avoid break-ins (or teens from sneaking out), and video surveillance systems. They also offer protection for ag systems, businesses and medical monitoring for seniors who wish to continue to live in their own homes.

Heartland is always watching, even when you can't be. If the door, window, water or smoke sensors trip the alarm, monitoring personnel will first try to contact you, then will dispatch the police or fire department for you. That means you can vacation in ease, knowing your home is being looked after. It's perfect for snow-birds who leave their homes for months on-end.

Heartland Security offers hard-wired and wireless systems to fit your individual needs. For more information, call 888-264-6380.

Heartland Security wins another award

For the second time in the past four years, Heartland Security was awarded Dealer of the Year by Interlogix Global Security Products. The award was announced in May at the Interlogix dealer conference in Palm Springs, CA.

"This achievement is only accomplished by having a great team focused on doing what is best for our customers and our company," says Guy Adams, Heartland Security's general manager.

Grant Copple, Interlogix USA Sales Manager, presented the award to Heartland Security for



being "a strong company with a dedicated and hardworking manager and team."

"We are proud to be named Dealer of the Year again and look forward to accomplishing great things for our customers as advancing technologies allow us to offer new services and types of protection," Adams says.

Heartland Security is locally owned by electric cooperatives and remains focused on delivering world-class security, safety, and lifestyle products and services to residential and commercial customers.

INDUSTRY News

Great River bike trail tour pedals through Mesabi area

Laura Piche came all the way from Rochester, N.Y., to ride the Great River Energy Mesabi Trail Tour — prompted by her brother-in-law's outstanding review of the yearly bike ride.

"He's done it for a few years now and thinks it's fabulous. He's always raving about it," said Piche, originally from the St. Paul area.

She and a few friends joined hundreds of other cyclists during Saturday's ninth annual tour. This year's Great River Energy Mesabi Trail tour, which concluded at Olcott Park in Virginia, offered riders four starting point choices: Cyclists could pedal the 67-mile "metric century" from the Itasca County Fairgrounds in Grand Rapids or ride 48 miles, launching from the Marble School. They also could opt for the 26-mile journey starting at the Greyhound Bus Museum in Hibbing or travel 13 miles from Stubler Beach in Buhl.

The tour — a recreational ride and not a race — is also a fundraiser benefiting both the Mesabi Trail and Ampers (the Association of Minnesota Public Educational Radio Stations).

~Mesabi Daily News

Members: Landline Out, Smartphone In

Call a member of an electric cooperative and there's a good chance you're ringing a smartphone. Old meets new, but for younger co-op members, the smartphone is the way to go.

Landline use among members fell again last year, according to Touchstone Energy's® 2012 National Survey on the Cooperative Difference. While older members are most likely to have a landline, just 38 percent of members ages 18 to 34 do. And within that age group, smartphone ownership jumped from 60 percent in 2011 to 77 percent last year.

More than half of members ages 45 to 54 have smartphones. And even among those 65 and older, smartphone ownership more than doubled last year, to 15 percent.

More than 80 percent [of members surveyed] said they'd be interested in an app that lets them report outages and receive updates on restoration efforts. Better than 70 percent expressed interest in getting updates on their home's electric use, as well as local weather alerts.

~Electric Co-op Today

After land has been mined, it must be returned to the exact — or better — state it was in before mining started



Providing energy, respecting nature

The Falkirk Mine in central North Dakota provides almost eight million tons of coal to Great River Energy's Coal Creek Station power plant each year. The machinery and effort required to move the earth above the coal, and the coal itself, is immense. But arguably even more immense is the work that comes after the land has been mined.

Falkirk's duties involve much more than just "dig a hole, get the coal." After the land has been mined, Falkirk must return the area to a diverse productive landscape at least as productive and diverse as it was before mining started.

This reclamation effort begins by restoring the topography to approximate original contours that restore watersheds and land-use areas to the post-mining landscape.

Before they start removing dirt, Falkirk conducts extensive surveys of the land to create an accurate record of the original composition and topography. State-of-the-art GPS measurements are taken to provide precise data that will be used to design and place the reclamation fill during reclamation.

When the mining process starts, the topsoil and subsoil layers are removed so they can be respread across the recontoured post-mining topography.

Using specialized software and the data collected before mining, Falkirk engineers generate a computer model of the post-mine topography. The models may be adjusted

slightly to account for important features like wetlands and drainages, and are then loaded into the GPS systems mounted on Falkirk's earth-moving equipment.

Operators use the GPS information to cut or fill land back into the hills, valleys and contours that existed before mining.

"Once we've restored the topography of the land, it is tilled, rocks are removed, and it is planted with a seed mix approved by the Public Service Commission," said Randy Crooke, environmental manager at the Falkirk Mining Company.

The vegetation roots penetrate the compacted earth, allowing moisture to permeate the soil. Pre-cropland areas stay in this state for two to three years, during which time the area is hayed annually by local farmers. The vegetation is then removed and the land re-tilled by Falkirk.

At this point in the process, an area farmer is allowed to farm the land, but Falkirk is responsible to completely manage the land for at least 10 years from the initial vegetation seeding.

Farmers keep careful records of the yields of reclaimed cropland so that Falkirk is able to show that the land has been returned to an



equal or greater state of productivity than it was originally.

Only then can the land be bond released, removed from the permit and turned completely over to private or public land management. Almost two-thirds of Falkirk's total permitted acres are used by local farmers for agricultural production or grazing.

Falkirk has received numerous state and national awards for its reclamation projects. They have also worked with the state and local agencies and local communities on special projects to create wetland areas, grouse habitats and even a local golf course on reclaimed land.

For the Falkirk Mining Company, mining isn't just about getting coal to deliver affordable, reliable fuel to Great River Energy. It's also about being a responsible steward of the land and a good neighbor to local communities.

Focus on Operation Round Up recipient:

Heartland Community Action Agency



Amy Berry of Heartland's McLeod County outreach program, shows some of the items the Operation Round Up donation has helped to purchase, such as diapers, personal hygiene supplies, and bus tokens.

Heartland Community Action Agency, Inc. was one of the organizations that received a donation from the Cooperative's Operation Round Up program in 2013. Heartland Community Action submitted an application for funding to be used to assist low-income individuals and families in McLeod County with basic need items that are not provided by other social service agencies in the county. There was a need for basic items such as diapers, personal hygiene supplies, and bus tokens. The bus tokens are often needed by people without their own transportation who need to get to appointments, interviews, etc.

Heartland Community Action tracks the progress of individual's and

family's movement towards self-reliance and the ability to meet their basic needs through the use of the self-sufficiency Matrix tool. Heartland works from an office at 218 Main Street S. in Hutchinson with their McLeod County outreach.

Heartland Community Action served nearly 3,000 people in McLeod County last year and 228 people in Renville County with a variety of services. They also served thousands of people in Kandiyohi and Meeker Counties. They are known mostly for administering fuel assistance and housing weatherization assistance, but they also provide many other services in our area.

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: _____



Nothing shines more than a bright idea.

What do you get when you take the power of electricity and combine it with ingenuity? More efficient energy. More responsible ways to use it. And technologies that make it work smarter for our future. Just think about what we'll be able to do then.

EPA Strengthens Energy Star Requirements for Refrigerators and Freezers



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced on June 27 that it has revised its Energy Star requirements for residential refrigerators and freezers. The updated requirements raise the bar for energy efficiency in these products and, for the first time, encourage manufacturers to include optional "connected" features. These features would offer consumers more ways to reduce the energy consumption of their refrigerators and freezers, help lower their utility bills, and better protect the environment and the climate.

Under the new standards, Energy Star-certified refrigerators and freezers will use at least 10% less energy than models meeting 2014 federal minimum efficiency standards. If all refrigerators and freezers sold in the United States

were to meet the updated requirements, the energy cost savings would grow to more than \$890 million each year while reducing annual greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of taking more than one million vehicles off the road. By recycling an old refrigerator and replacing it with a new Energy Star-certified refrigerator, consumers can save from \$150—\$1,100 on energy costs over the product's lifetime.

To earn the Energy Star label, product performance must be certified by an EPA-recognized third party, based on testing in an EPA-recognized laboratory. The updated Energy Star refrigerator and freezer specification will go into effect on September 15, 2014.

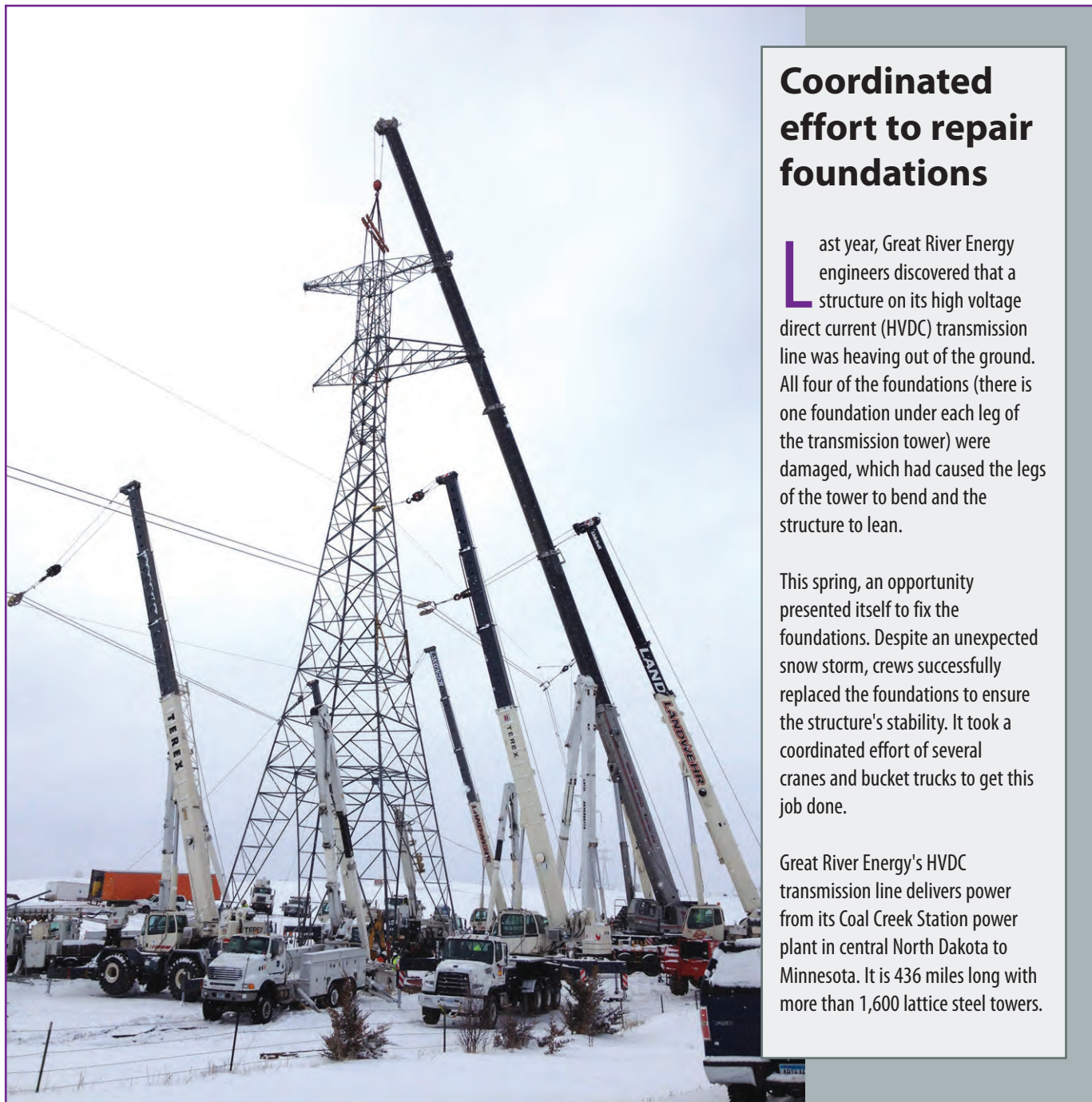
Certain Energy Star refrigerators and freezers with connected features will provide consumers new convenience and energy-saving opportunities. These products will allow consumers to view real-time energy use, receive energy-related messages such as an alert when the door has been left open and manage appliance settings remotely.

Work plan projects and line upgrades

McLeod Cooperative Power Association (MCPA) linemen are currently rebuilding an overhead line on the east side of Hector Township. MCPA linemen and various contractors will be working hard through the next year to complete work plan jobs, new services and service upgrades. You will see these crews doing construction in many different areas over the next few months. Some of the major projects the Co-op will be working on are:

- **Winthrop to the west – 8 miles of overhead rebuild**
- **Glencoe at 212 to the east – 1.5 miles of underground**
- **Lester Prairie to the west – 9 miles of overhead rebuild**

There are many projects that you will see MCPA working on in addition to the larger projects listed. We ask that you please slow down for our crews in these areas when you are passing through.



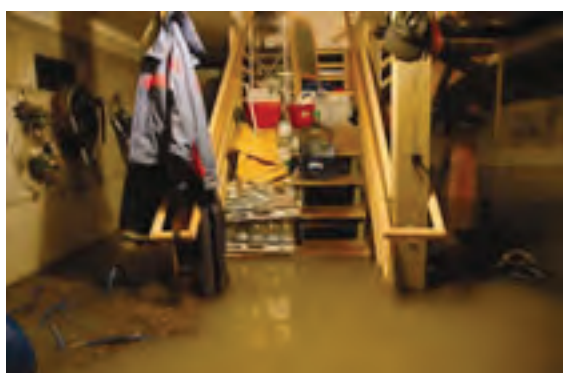
Coordinated effort to repair foundations

Last year, Great River Energy engineers discovered that a structure on its high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line was heaving out of the ground. All four of the foundations (there is one foundation under each leg of the transmission tower) were damaged, which had caused the legs of the tower to bend and the structure to lean.

This spring, an opportunity presented itself to fix the foundations. Despite an unexpected snow storm, crews successfully replaced the foundations to ensure the structure's stability. It took a coordinated effort of several cranes and bucket trucks to get this job done.

Great River Energy's HVDC transmission line delivers power from its Coal Creek Station power plant in central North Dakota to Minnesota. It is 436 miles long with more than 1,600 lattice steel towers.

Use caution when flooding occurs



McLeod Cooperative Power encourages everyone to be alert to electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water, along with other potential hazards that create a serious risk of electrocution. Safety measures to keep in mind include:

- Never step into a flooded basement or other room if water may be in contact with electrical outlets, appliances or cords.

- Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you cannot reach your breaker box safely, call MCPA to shut off power at the meter. There is no charge for having the Co-op do this.
- Never use electric appliances or touch electric wires, switches or fuses when you are wet or when you are standing in water.
- Keep electric tools and equipment at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces. Do not use electric yard tools if it is raining or the ground is wet. Cleaning up and using water-damaged appliances also carry safety risks. If an electrical appliance has been in contact with water, have a professional check it out before it is used. It may need to be repaired or replaced.

exedeSM Satellite High-Speed Internet from ViaSat

exede by ViaSat exceeds any expectations you have of satellite technology and speed! This new service, offered by your Cooperative, can even exceed the average DSL speed! If you long for a faster, more satisfying internet experience, this is what you've been waiting for!

exede offers three packages that all have 12 Mbps download speed and 3 Mbps upload speed! The only difference is the monthly usage amount. Call your Cooperative today for more information and/or to get your name on our installation schedule!

Indulge your need for speed with exede. Call today!




McLeod
 COOPERATIVE POWER
 320-864-3148
 800-494-6272