

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

November 2013

In this issue...



Give safety for
Christmas 3



Santa's Helpers receive
Operation Round-up
funds 8

Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

Four MCPA linemen provided storm restoration after blizzard in South Dakota



Left to right: Curt Hanson, Josh Brantner, Dan Schade, and Craig Marti spent 11 days providing mutual aid to a cooperative in Wall, South Dakota after the October 4-5 blizzard.



Roads were flooded in South Dakota after the snow from a blizzard in early October melted. MCPA linemen assisted West River Electric Association in Wall, SD with storm restoration.

A blizzard that struck South Dakota on October 4 caused West River Electric Association of Wall, South Dakota to put out a call for mutual aid to other cooperatives. McLeod Cooperative Power responded by sending four of its linemen, two digger trucks, and two pole trailers out to help on October 10. The guys worked 16-hour days, seven days a week, for West River helping to restore power.

The early-season blizzard dropped deep snow across much of western South Dakota. The snow soon melted, causing flooding and impassable roads. The following days included rain and high winds. Line crews from other cooperatives in South Dakota and Minnesota, as well as contractors, worked in poor weather conditions to

restore power for more than two weeks. The final residence was restored on October 20.

As of October 5, West River had all 16,000 of its meters without power. On October 6, more than 3,200 members remained without power after main substation and feeder points were restored. Many of the remaining outages were in very rural areas of their service territory that would take considerable time to rebuild lines for power to be restored. The Cooperative had over 1,600 broken poles and at least \$5,000,000 in damage.

On Friday, October 11— which was the first day our guys worked in South Dakota — there were 60 mile-per-hour winds with rain and fog. Line foreman

Dan Schade commented that it was difficult keeping his hard hat on, as the strong winds wanted to blow it right off of his head.

McLeod Cooperative Power linemen spent each day hauling poles, attaching cross-arms and hardware to poles, digging holes, and setting poles. The clay out there was sticky like cement. It would stick to the augers, making pole setting a messy job. Because of the muddy conditions the National Guard had to pull utility trucks from pole to pole with large bulldozers. Many of the lines crossed private right-of-way like pastureland so they were not accessible by road.

**Storm Restoration in
South Dakota** *continued on page 2*



2014 McLeod Cooperative Power Calendar

Scenic 2014 calendars
will be available by
Thanksgiving

This year's 2014 scenic Minnesota calendars will be available in the Co-op office by Thanksgiving. Please stop in and pick up a copy. First come, first serve, while supplies last.

Holiday Treats Dec. 12



Plan to visit the
Co-op office at

**1231 Ford Avenue
in Glencoe
Thurs., Dec. 12**

for holiday cookies,
cider and coffee.

Holiday treats will be
available from
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Members may also pick up
their 2014 scenic calendar.

Autopay saves you and the Co-op money every month

This is an especially good time for members to sign up for the Direct Payment (Autopay) Plan. You can get away from writing a check, putting on a stamp and mailing your payment to the Cooperative. It is so simple to sign up. Once on the program, MCPA will automatically take care of the bank draft from your account. You save time and money each month and so does the Cooperative.

Here is how it works:

- You will receive your normal monthly bill around the 15th of each month, giving you 13 days to review the charges.
- Your bank account will not be charged until the 28th of the month (or the next business day if it falls on a weekend).

To get on the Direct Payment Plan, just fill out the Authorization for Direct Payment form and return it to the Cooperative along with a voided check. Please allow 3-4 weeks for your enrollment on the program.

Call 1-800-494-6272 today if you need assistance signing up.

AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT PAYMENT

I authorize McLeod Cooperative Power Association and the financial institution named below to initiate entries to my checking/savings account. This authority will remain in effect until I notify you in writing to cancel it in such time to afford the financial institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it. I can stop payment of any entry by notifying my financial institution three business days before my account is charged.

Name of Financial Institution _____

Branch _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Signature of Member _____

Date _____

Name (Please Print) _____

Telephone # _____

Address (Please Print) _____

Bank Acct. # _____ Checking _____ Savings _____

PLEASE ATTACH A BLANK, VOIDED CHECK FROM YOUR DESIGNATED ACCOUNT FOR VERIFICATION.

Electric Acct. # _____

Location # _____

Storm Restoration in South Dakota... continued from page 1



Muddy conditions made it impossible for digger derricks to move across farm fields and pastures. They were moved from pole to pole with the assistance of a National Guard dozer. Many of the poles needing replacement were located in private right-of-way (across pastureland) and were not accessible by road.

MCPA lineman Dan Schade rode along as the digger truck was moved to the next pole site by the National Guard bull dozer.



MCPA crews assembled hardware and cross-arms on poles, dug holes, and set new poles every day while in South Dakota. Other crews that would string the wires followed later. Over 1,600 poles were broken on the West River Electric Cooperative system.

The landscape was littered with dead cattle that had died in the blizzard. Cows and calf carcasses were scattered across pastures and piled up on the side of the road waiting to be loaded up and disposed of somewhere. Over 30,000 cattle were killed in the storm according to news agencies.

Our linemen - Curt Hanson, Dan Schade, Craig Marti and Josh Brantner - reported that members of West River were most appreciative and helpful. The cooperative made sure that the linemen were fed each day and even



On some days crews would rebuild several miles of line just to restore power to one customer. After the snow melted and the flooding subsided, roads were left in difficult driving condition.

washed their clothes.

Cooperatives help each other by providing mutual aid in disaster situations. Those cooperatives providing aid are reimbursed for all labor, truck and equipment costs. Our thanks to the linemen who went to help in South Dakota and also to our handful of linemen left behind to keep the lights on at home.

A link to more South Dakota pictures is available at www.mcleodcoop.com homepage.

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McLeod Cooperative Power News

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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

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 First Call. It is a 24-hour emergency response system which offers assistance by simply pushing a button.

Whenever 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.

TOGETHER, WE'RE GENERATING SOMETHING POSITIVE

Working together, we can bring the promise of wise use of electricity into your home. We're making it easy for you to discover the latest, most efficient smart technologies, innovations and resources to help you get the most out of your electricity use.

Find out for yourself what's possible when the power of electricity and the power of cooperation work together at EnergyWiseMN.com/OurPower

ENERGY WISE MN



Electric Heating Sales Tax Exemption

Electricity sold for residential space heating, when used as the primary source of heat, is exempt from Minnesota sales tax for the usage months of November through April. To qualify, members must complete an exemption form, available from the Cooperative. If you have signed an exemption previously, you do not have to sign one again. We keep it on file. Heating systems monitored by load management or off-peak meters are also eligible and will not be taxed.

Call the office if you have any questions.

The wrong way to save money on HVAC

By Bill Dove, CM, HVAC trainer and installation specialist
From the Fluke Digital Library @ www.fluke.com/library

How to advise your clients against potentially harmful decisions

When most homeowners think about reducing their heating costs without additional expenditures, they tend to think in terms of temperature. They want more heat for the same money, they look for "free" heat, they seal sources of cold drafts, and other, sometimes very ingenious, solutions. They forget to think about oxygen, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, indoor air contaminants, what they are breathing and where it came from (or didn't come from), and the overall cause and effect of their actions.

"Let's close the registers in unoccupied rooms"

This reduces air volume through the furnace, elevates heat exchanger temperatures, reduces heat transfer into the home, elevates vent temperatures and increases heat losses up the chimney, causes furnace short cycling and shortens component life. There is no savings here, only additional losses and costs. Better to add a zoning system, or use the lowest fan speed for continuous fan operation to keep the temperature more evenly distributed. This may allow for one or two degree reduction in the thermostat setting. For older furnaces, a relay may be needed to operate low speed on a "G" demand, but bring on high speed for a "Y" demand.

"Let's shut off some radiators"

Now we're looking at some possible broken pipes,

boiler short cycling, more frequent hot surface igniter failures, and possible increased maintenance schedules. Again we can add some zoning for more effective temperature control. An old trick with cast iron radiation and large water content boilers was to use two stage heat thermostats. Stage one started the circulator, stage two started the burner. This was particularly effective with zoned systems.

"Let's buy a kerosene space heater and take it from room to room with us."

OK, but don't forget to open the windows. Un-vented space heaters use oxygen and replace room air with CO₂, CO and water vapor. CO₂ is heavier than air and will settle at the heater where there should be oxygen, CO is lighter than air and will rise to the ceiling. Excess humidity will damage the structure. If the CO₂ don't get you from below, the CO will get you from above.

"Let's use the oven to heat the kitchen"

Gas oven? Its effects are the same as a kerosene heater, but faster and worse. Bad, bad, bad. Electric oven? How much does electricity cost at a COP (coefficient of performance, or the ratio of the change in heat to the supplied work) of one? How much does an appliance serviceman charge to replace an oven heating element?

"Why should we let all that hot air from the clothes drier vent outdoors instead of indoors?"

Lint. Extremely flammable lint! Lint you shouldn't breath. Lint that will clog the furnace filter (until it bypasses the filter and coats the coils). Chemicals.

Anti-static chemicals that will coat the furnace flame sensor with electrically insulating compounds that will eventually cause a no-heat call. How much does it cost to clean a flame sensor? Is it a gas drier? Then we're back to the same objections as a space heater or gas oven.

"I cut a hole in the return here next to my basement wood stove"

Warning: you could die. Think about this. Let's create a negative pressure in the equipment area, ruin our venting, and suck lots of CO from the wood stove into the rest of the house. Yes, it has happened!

"I use my fireplace to heat the family room"

And that old fireplace just sucks the heat out of the house right up that big ole masonry chimney so the furnace runs longer. Then when it's bedtime and there are still glowing embers in the fireplace and we lose draft, the house can suddenly breath again and suck make-up air down the chimney, right across that bed of glowing embers. That bed of embers that produces phenomenal amounts of CO. Serious health hazard. Fireplace inserts and free-standing stoves that are sealed from the living space and get all of their combustion air from outdoors are OK. Sell them one.

"I stopped up those pipes to the outdoors in my furnace room"

Serious health hazard. Furnaces, boilers, water heaters, gas driers need a constant supply of fresh air. Vent systems need a constant supply of ventilation air. There are codes to comply with, and there are

also the laws of physics to work with. What if we connected that combustion air supply to the return and added a small supply register in the supply trunk in the equipment room and latched on the lowest fan speed for continuous fan operation? We just provided a continuous means of whole house ventilation air at a house positive pressure with a continuous (preheated during the heat cycle) air supply to the furnace room. And don't forget the balancing damper (locked in place) in the outdoor air supply duct. This would satisfy NFGC ANSI Z223.1- 5.3.4 "Specially Engineered Systems". (Allow a liberal 50 cfm for combustion air supply and venting in the equipment room for every 100,000 Btus input.)

"Can I capture the heat from my furnace vent?"

No. Lowered vent temperatures increase wet time and increase the likelihood of vent damage. There have been devices on the market that sink the heat from vent connectors by conduction/radiation or conduction/convection. Application of these devices with older furnaces with high vent temperatures may not have been as detrimental as applying these devices to a modern furnace with reduced vent temperatures. In either case, these devices are no longer recommended. Be prepared for some off-the wall energy saving questions, and consider the total cascading effect before answering. Be careful out there.

Bill Dove has worked in the HVAC trades since 1977 as a serviceman, supervisor, instructor, and consultant Fluke Corporation, PO Box 9090, Everett, WA 98206 U.S.A. Web access: <http://www.fluke.com>, ©2008 Fluke Corporation. Specifications subject to change without notice. Printed in U.S.A. 11/2008 3399487 A-EN-N Rev A

Protect Electronics, Prevent Hazards

Big-ticket electronics, such as televisions, computers, and gaming consoles, are at the top of many holiday wish lists—but safety may not be. Purchasing, installing, and operating these items safely protects not only the expensive equipment, but also your entire home. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) offers the following tips, and for more information, visit holidaysafety.org.

Safety tips

- Always purchase electrical devices from a reputable retailer that you trust. Be especially wary when making online purchases.
- Check that all electrical items are certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA), or Intertek (ETL).
- Always read and follow the manufacturer's instructions before use.
- Send warranty and product registration forms for new items to manufacturers in order to be notified about product recalls. Recall information is also available on the website of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (<http://www.cpsc.gov>).
- Never install an exterior television or radio antenna close enough to contact power lines if it falls.
- Never remove the ground pin (the third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit into a two-prong outlet.

- All appliances and cords should be kept in good condition. Examine them regularly for damage, and repair or dispose of damaged items.
- Keep cords out of reach of children and pets.
- Make sure entertainment centers and computer workstations have enough space around them for ventilation of electronic equipment.
- Keep liquids, including drinks, away from electrical devices. Spills can result in dangerous shocks or fires.
- Unplug equipment when not in use to save energy and reduce the risks for shocks or fires. Power strips or surge protectors make a good central turn-off point.
- Always unplug electrical items by grasping the plug firmly rather than pulling on the cord.
- If you receive any kind of shock from a large appliance or any other electrical device, stop using it until an electrician has checked it.
- If an appliance smokes or sparks, or if you feel a tingle or light shock when it's on, stop using it. Discard and replace it or have it repaired by an authorized service provider.

Extension cords

- Extension cords are meant to provide a temporary solution. They should not be used as a long-term or permanent electrical circuit.
- Never use a cord that feels hot or is damaged in any way. Touching even a

single exposed strand can result in an electric shock or burn.

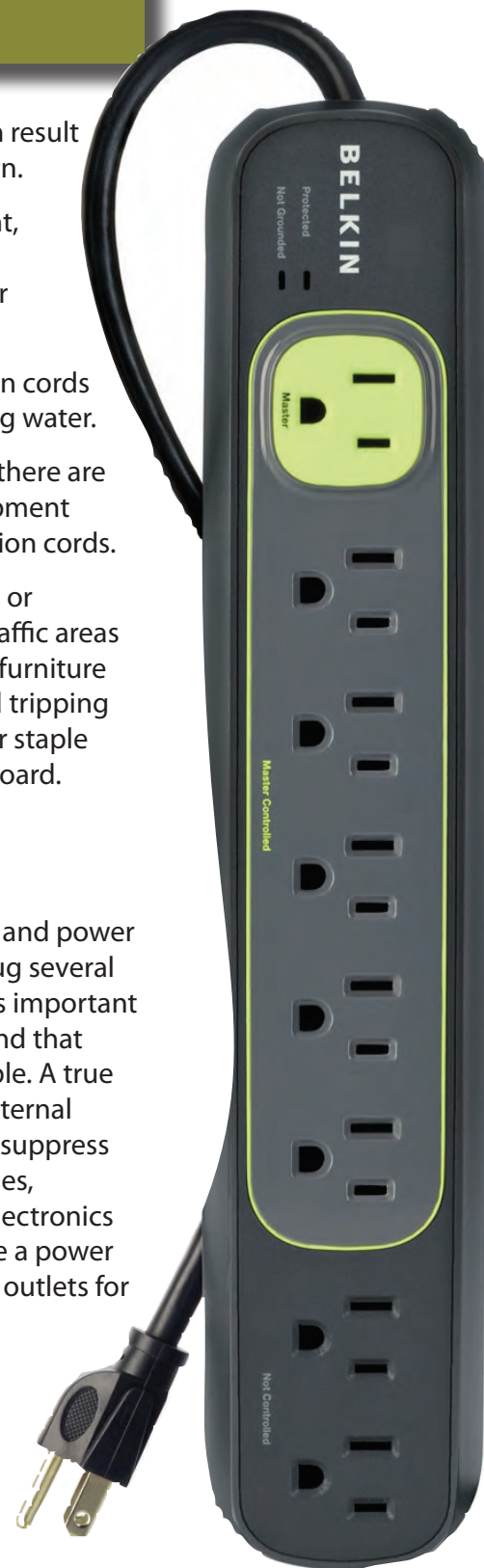
- Only use weather-resistant, heavy gauge extension cords marked "for outdoor use" outside.
- Keep all outdoor extension cords clear of snow and standing water.
- Arrange furniture so that there are outlets available for equipment without the use of extension cords.
- Do not place power cords or extension cords in high traffic areas or under carpets, rugs, or furniture (to avoid overheating and tripping hazards), and never nail or staple them to the wall or baseboard.

Surge protector or power strip?

Although surge protectors and power strips both allow you to plug several devices in one location, it is important for consumers to understand that they are not interchangeable. A true surge protector includes internal components that divert or suppress the extra current from surges, protecting your valuable electronics from electrical spikes, while a power strip simply provides more outlets for a circuit.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

Belkin surge protector_Belkin.jpg
This surge protector also offers energy-saving options.
Source: Belkin



Wireless Security Puts You in Control

Heartland Security offers state-of-the-art mobile security services available through your computer, tablet or smart phone. Our interactive features let you stay connected, even if the phone line is cut, the internet is disconnected or the power goes out. Exclusive crash-and-smash protection keeps you connected even if your security panel is destroyed.

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This anywhere, anytime technology sends alerts to you when alarms are triggered, doors opened, the power goes out or any other threat occurs.



Call for more information. 888-264-6380



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Spotting Energy Myths and Scams

By Brian Sloboda
Cooperative Research Network

A quick Internet search reveals many ways to save energy around your home—and a lot of them are too good to be true. Scams generally center around misstatements of science or confusion over utility programs. That's why it's always a good idea to call your electric co-op to verify or ask questions about any energy-saving program you see advertised.

The most popular scam right now involves a device that promises to save energy without requiring you to make any changes in behavior, turn anything off, or adjust the thermostat. People who sell these “little boxes” often claim outrageous energy savings—sometimes as much as 30 percent or more couched around legitimate utility terms like power conditioning, capacitors, and power factor.

The bogus marketing spiel usually goes something like this: The model being sold will control alternating current power factor and reduce electric bills. It will condition your power and make appliances last longer. It uses no power and has no moving parts. It will make motors in your home run better.

Accompanying materials often caution “your utility doesn't want you to know about this device.” That last part is true—because these boxes are a rip-off.

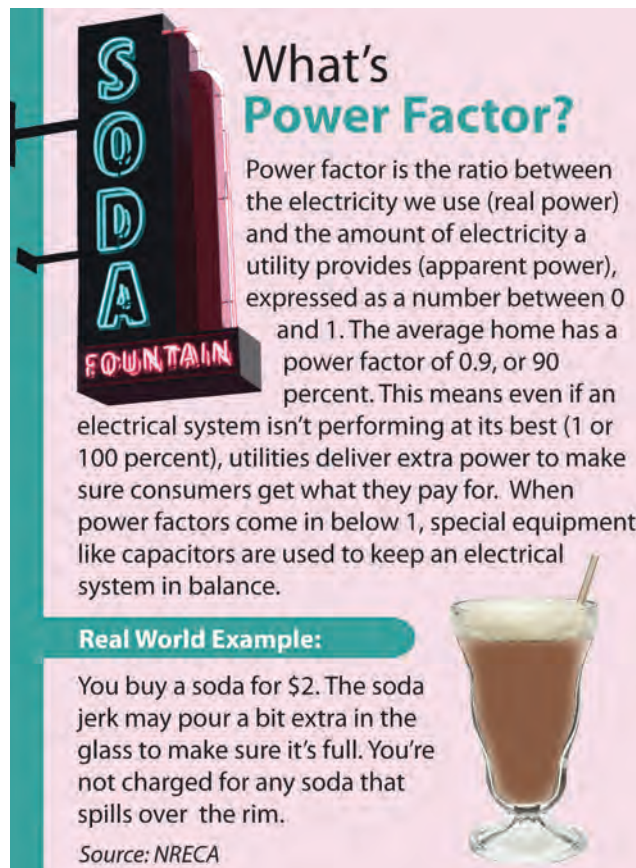
What's the reality? While electric co-ops use various components to correct power factor for commercial and industrial consumers, power factor correction is not a concern with homes.

Engineers at the University of Texas-Austin concluded that one of the units could produce no more than a 0.06 percent reduction in electric use in an average house. The Electric Power Research Institute, a Palo Alto, Calif.-based non-profit research consortium made up of electric utilities, including electric cooperatives, recently tested one of the most popular residential power factor correction products and found that it generated average power savings of just 0.23 percent—far from the 30 percent claimed by its manufacturer. At that rate, it would take a typical homeowner more than 70 years to recoup his or her investment.

In short, these devices are nothing more than ordinary capacitors employed in electronic circuits to store energy or differentiate between high- and low-frequency signals. Companies selling these products change names quickly and often, and move from town to town looking for new victims.

There are several questions you should ask a sales representative when reading an ad for the next magical cure-all:

Does the product violate the laws of science? For example, does it claim to be capable of “changing the



What's Power Factor?

Power factor is the ratio between the electricity we use (real power) and the amount of electricity a utility provides (apparent power), expressed as a number between 0 and 1. The average home has a power factor of 0.9, or 90 percent. This means even if an electrical system isn't performing at its best (1 or 100 percent), utilities deliver extra power to make sure consumers get what they pay for. When power factors come in below 1, special equipment like capacitors are used to keep an electrical system in balance.

Real World Example:

You buy a soda for \$2. The soda jerk may pour a bit extra in the glass to make sure it's full. You're not charged for any soda that spills over the rim.

Source: NRECA

GRAPHIC 2011 01 Power Factor Soda.jpg, GRAPHIC 2011 01 Power Factor Soda.ai
GRAPHIC 2011 01 Power Factor Soda LEGACY.eps, GRAPHIC 2011 01 Power Factor Soda.pdf

molecular structure ... to release never-before tapped power?" If true, the invention would quickly be sold in every store across the nation, not marketed through fliers or a poorly designed website.

Was the product tested by an independent group?

If the performance of the product was not tested and certified by a lab or entity not connected to the company selling it, be very skeptical. Don't allow a salesman to verify claims. One popular trick is to hook up the little box to a motor and a power meter. When turned on, the meter records a drop in what appears to be power consumption. This is a trick—the meter is actually recording reactive power. This is not the same type of meter hanging on the side of your home.

Is it too good to be true? If so, it probably is. A video getting play on the Internet shows a consumer reporter for a television station testing one of these little boxes. By looking at electric bills before and after installation, he concludes the device is a good buy. However, an excessively hot or unusually cool day can cause one month's electric bill to run significantly higher or lower than the previous month. Wise consumers always ask to see electric use for the same month from the previous year(s), not previous month, and factor in weather anomalies for any savings claims.

Brian Sloboda is a program manager specializing in energy efficiency for the Cooperative Research Network, a service of the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Additional research provided by ESource.

The Cooperative Research Network monitors, evaluates, and applies technologies that help electric cooperatives control costs, increase productivity, and enhance service to their consumers.

Industry News

DOE awards the NRECA \$3.6 million for solar photovoltaic deployment

The U.S. Department of Energy and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association signed a cooperative agreement for a multi-state 23 MW solar installation research project that seeks to identify and address barriers to photovoltaic deployment at cooperatives. The DOE is providing \$3.6 million, matched by a \$1.2 million cost share from NRECA, the National Rural Utility Cooperative Finance Corp., Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, PowerSecure International and fifteen participating cooperatives.

As it stands now, a cooperative must start from scratch in deploying solar PV of more than 1 MW. For this project, co-ops will explore how standardization can help bring down the “soft” costs—labor, procurement, supply chain and other costs—of PV installations and also reduce uncertainty about the effects of these installations on a system.

Working with 15 co-ops that are planning from 250 kW to 5 MW of solar PV, including Great River Energy (one of our energy suppliers), the NRECA will analyze the business-side of these deployments and develop “PV system packages” consisting of standardized, optimized and scalable technical designs for 250 kW, 500 kW and 1 MW systems.

~Electric Light & Power

Great River Energy signs 200-megawatt seasonal exchange with Manitoba Hydro

Great River Energy has signed a 200-megawatt seasonal diversity exchange with Manitoba Hydro of Winnipeg, extending a 150-megawatt arrangement that has been in place between the two utilities since 1995. The new agreement runs until 2030.

“We are pleased to work with our long-term partner to secure this competitive power generation resource for our member cooperatives,” said Jon Brekke, vice president of member services for Great River Energy. “Seasonal diversity exchanges like this are a great way for both utilities to share capacity and diversify sources of power supply. The exchange makes use of existing transmission lines between the utilities, and helps ensure a more secure, stable and affordable energy future for our members.”

Over the years, Great River Energy has increased its purchase of wind energy and hydropower and has significantly reduced emissions at its power plants. “Since 2006, we have lowered our carbon emissions intensity by 20 percent,” Brekke added. “The new agreement with Manitoba Hydro helps continue that trend.”

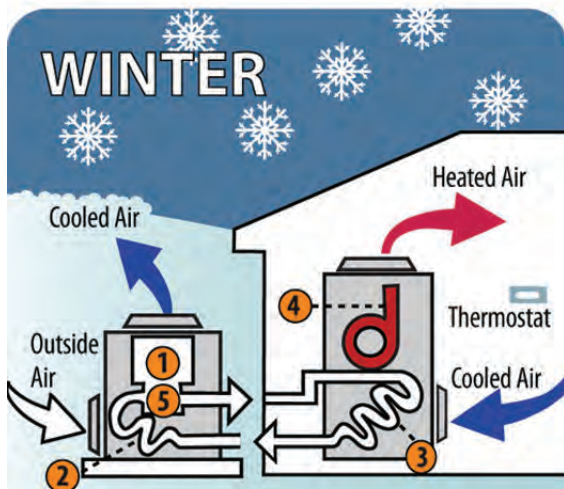
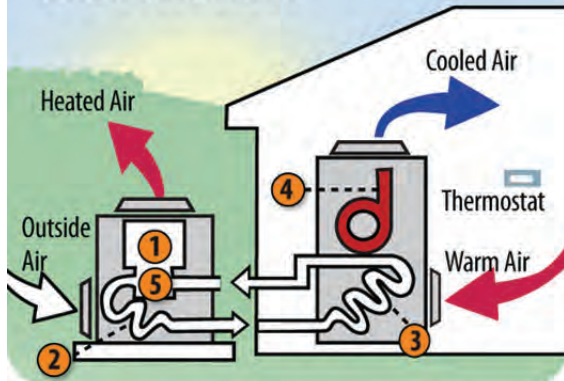
Seasonal diversity exchanges take advantage of the fact that Manitoba Hydro's load peaks during winter—due to the demand for heating—while Great River Energy generally experiences its peak loads in the summer, due to higher air conditioning use. The diversity exchange means Manitoba Hydro will provide 200 megawatts of renewable hydroelectric capacity to Great River Energy in the summer to meet its energy needs, while Great River Energy will provide Manitoba Hydro with 200 megawatts of capacity during the winter.

~Press Release

How Do Air-Source Heat Pumps Work?

By transferring heat between a house and outside air, these devices trim electricity use by as much as 30 percent to 40 percent in moderate climates.

SUMMER



1 Compressor

Increases refrigerant/freon pressure to accept the maximum heat from the air.

2 Condenser

Coils move freon (and with it, hot or cold air) to or from outside air.

3 Evaporator

Coils move freon (and with it, hot or cold air) to or from outside air.

4 Air Handler

Fan blows air into a home's ducts.

5 Reversing Valve

Switches the direction of the freon flow, changing the heat pump's output to hot or cold air (controlled by thermostat).

Source: NRECA



Going south for the winter

Please notify the Cooperative if you are heading south for the winter.

Although the Turtle will send us your meter reading, we still need to know what payment arrangements you prefer.

Options are:

- You can pay in advance.
- Have the post office forward your mail.
- You can sign up for auto pay and have the payment automatically deducted from your checking or savings account.
- You can call us with a credit card payment.

Be sure to make arrangements before you leave by calling 1-800-494-6272.

The employees and directors of McLeod Cooperative Power wish all of our members and their families a blessed Thanksgiving. Take this time to be grateful for the many blessings we each enjoy.



The MCPA office will be closed Thursday and Friday Nov. 28 & 29.

Please use the 24-hour outage number to reach the Cooperative for outages, emergencies or other messages: 1-800-927-5685.

SCAM ALERT

McLeod Cooperative Power DOES NOT communicate via e-mail regarding past due accounts. If you receive an email that appears to be from the cooperative and the subject is Past Due Account, DO NOT OPEN IT. Clicking on it may introduce malware into your computer. If you receive any suspicious email correspondence that appears to be from McLeod Cooperative Power, please call our office.

Winner of \$200 credit

Timothy A. Ulrich of Buffalo Lake was the winner of the \$200 electric bill credit in the random drawing of members who received, completed and returned Great River Energy's saturation survey in June. We thank all members who received a survey and took the time to complete it. This is very helpful in planning for future energy requirements.

Late Night FREE Zone only for exede customers

Exede customers using the Co-op's high-speed internet service, can download files, music and movies from midnight to 5 AM any day of the month without using up any of their bandwidth for the month. It is called exede's Late Night FREE Zone.

This Late Night FREE Zone makes it possible for people working from home to download larger

quantities of files or data overnight for work. It could be great for a night owl who wants to download a movie that would not normally be possible with the customer's lower level bandwidth package.

If you have questions, or want to sign up for the faster rural internet service called exede, give the Co-op a call at 1-800-494-6272.

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 usually will occur between 4

and 10 p.m. on a week night, it can happen in the morning, afternoon or on a weekend.

For members with peak shave water heaters or Dual Fuel, control times are available daily by going to the Cooperative's web site. They are usually posted by noon on our home page. Or you may click on "Is today a Load Mgmt Control Day?" on our home page for more detailed information and historical control times.

Volunteers needed for Nominating Committee

To elect directors in Districts 1, 2, & 3 at the 2014 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: Hassan 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 if you are willing to volunteer for the 2014 Nominating Committee no later than January 2, 2014. Committee meetings are scheduled for January 30 and February 13, 2014. The Annual Meeting is planned for April 8, 2014.

				Ellsworth	Collinwood		Victor	Woodland	Franklin
	East Lake Lillian			Acoma	Hutchinson	Hale	Winsted	Hollywood	Watertown
Kingman	Osceola	Brookfield	Boon Lake	Lynn	Hassan Valley	Rich Valley	Bergen	Camden	
Bird Island	Melville	Hector	Preston Lake	Collins	Sumter	Glencoe	Helen	Young America	
Norfolk	Palmyra	Martinsburg	Grafton	Round Grove	Penn	New Auburn	Green Isle		
	Bandon	Wellington	Moltke	Bismarck	Transit	Dryden	Arlington		

What makes a good director?

At McLeod Cooperative Power we believe that our Board of Directors comprises a pillar 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 29 full-time 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,** and be capable of using basic computer skills to receive electronic communications and reports from the Co-op.

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

Director qualifications per the Co-op Articles of Incorporation

Article 3, Section 2 of the McLeod Cooperative Power Association Articles of Incorporation states the following about director qualifications. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a Director of the Cooperative who:

A. is not a member in good standing of the Cooperative receiving service at the member's primary residence or principal place of business in the district from which the Director is elected;

B. within five (5) years preceding a Director candidate's nomination was or during service on the Board of Directors is finally adjudged to be guilty of a felony;

C. within five (5) years preceding a Director candidate's nomination was an employee of the Cooperative;

D. is or becomes, or at any time during the five (5) years preceding a Director candidate's nomination shall have been, employed by a labor union which represents, or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employees of the Cooperative;

E. is a child, grandchild, great-grandchild, parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, nephew or niece, whether by blood, or in law, of an employee of the Cooperative;

F. is a person that is child, grandchild, great-grandchild, parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, nephew or niece, by blood, or in law, of an incumbent Director that is not up for re-election at that time;

G. is in any way employed by or substantially financially interested in an enterprise competing with the Cooperative or any Cooperative-affiliated business;

H. is or becomes the full-time employee or agent of, or who is or becomes the full-time employer or principal of, another Director; or

I. is absent without cause from three (3) or more regular meetings of the Board of Directors during any twelve (12) month period.

A member that is an authorized farm corporation, family farm corporation, regular corporation, partnership, limited liability partnership or other business entity may select an individual member residing on or actively operating such business entity to be eligible for election to the Board. A member that is not a natural person may select one of its officers to be eligible for election to the Board, provided that not more than two (2) such officers may serve on the Board at the same time.

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 8, 2014.

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: _____

Focus on Operation Round Up recipient

Santa's Helpers



Santa's Helpers assisted 222 families in 2012.

Santa's Helpers is a non-profit program coordinated by Sibley County Public Health and Human Services and community organizations. The purpose of the program is to provide families in need with gifts for their children during the holiday season. They also provide blankets, hats and mittens. The group collects donations from area businesses and civic groups and they applied to the Cooperative's

Operation RoundUp Foundation for a grant in 2013. Santa's Helpers was awarded a \$300 donation to help purchase new toys, hats and mitten for needy children in Sibley County.

Donations of new toys, hats, mittens and blankets are currently being accepted at Sibley County Public Health and Human Services, 111 8th Street, Gaylord between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday

through Friday, now through December 9th. Donations can also be dropped off at the following businesses in Gaylord: First National Bank of MN, ProGrowth Bank, The Dollar Store, and Casey's, and in Arlington: Thomes Brothers Hardware and the Arlington Haus. Additional collection sites may be added in other Sibley County communities. Collection cans to collect monetary donations will be in many Sibley County businesses as well.

The Santa's Helpers Program will be held on Tuesday, December 10 and Wednesday, December 11 at American Lutheran Church in Gaylord. Last year the program assisted 222 families. They are hoping to surpass that number in 2013.

McLeod Cooperative Power's Operation RoundUp Program allows members to contribute to worthwhile area projects by simply rounding up their electric bill to the nearest dollar each month. The change from your bill when added to the change from other

member's donations can add up. It is a tax deductible donation that is documented on your electric bill, showing how much you have given year-to-date. The average member donated \$6.00 a year but it will never be more than \$11.88.



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

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: _____

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September Outage Summary

During the month of September the Cooperative had a total of 34 outages, affecting 140 consumers. Fourteen of those outages were caused by lightning.

A storm that move through on Thursday, September 19 started causing outages shortly before 10 PM due to lightning strikes and tree branches in the lines. It caused 15 outages, which affected 71 MCPA accounts. It caused outages in McLeod, Carver, and Sibley Counties. Restoral times varied on each outage.

The second largest outage for the month affected 36 members south of Hutchinson on Friday, September 6. It was caused by a tree hanging over into a line. The outage was repaired in less than one hour.

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.

Farm Fatigue bucket distribution

A few employees of McLeod Cooperative Power helped the Glencoe Chamber of Commerce distribute Farm Fatigue buckets to area farmers in October. The Glencoe and Hutchinson area chamber offices organize distribution to area farmers each year during harvest to promote safety while harvesting.