

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

June 2015

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Official publication of



www.mcleodcoop.com

May 16-17 storms knock out power

Spring storms on Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17, knocked out power to 471 members. Most outages were caused by trees blown into power lines or broken down on power lines. Two outages were due to lightning and many were caused by straight-line winds.

The one outage that caused the most members to lose power resulted from wind that snapped a three-phase pole near Hutchinson a little after 8:30 a.m. Sunday morning. It caused 241 members to be without power for two and one-half hours. Line and individual outages ranged from less than one hour to seven hours until power was restored. All consumers were restored by late Sunday afternoon.



Call the Co-op for free net-metering info packet BEFORE you shop for solar or wind system

It is very important that you contact the Co-op for your free net-metering info packet before you start shopping for a solar or wind system. Educational materials on the interconnection of renewable energy systems can be mailed or e-mailed to you at no charge upon request. We hope to also have it available on our website in the near future.

The State of Minnesota has standardized rules for all consumers who plan to own or operate any distributed generation facilities (like solar or wind). Whether you are doing one solar panel on the side of your barn or a big wind turbine, the rules and requirements by the state to ensure safe interconnection and operation are very similar. The Cooperative can provide you with the most up-to-date policies and requirements for installing renewable energy.

There are some revisions to Minnesota law coming out of the recent legislative session that affect renewable energy systems. It is important that you have the most current information so that you can ask all the necessary questions when researching a renewable product or installer and understand the requirements for interconnection.

Correction in Bulb Recycling



Some stores only accept CFLs, not fluorescent tubes

We apologize for an error in last month's newsletter. We listed several area hardware stores as accepting CFLs and also other fluorescent light bulbs/tubes when we ran the light bulb recycling coupons. Some of these stores only accept CFLs (the curly bulbs) and some are no longer participating. Please refer to the correct list of participating stores (right). Our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Beckler's Hardware Hank (Bird Island) — CFL & fluorescent tubes

Hite Hardware (Glencoe) — CFL & fluorescent tubes

Ace Hardware (Hutchinson) — CFL & fluorescent tubes

The Hardware Center (Gaylord) — CFL & fluorescent tubes

Thomes Bros. (Arlington) — CFL & fluorescent tubes

Angvall Hardware & Mercantile (Lester Prairie) — CFL Only

Home Solutions (Norwood Young America) — CFL Only

Meet the Financial Services & IT employees



Employees Jan Sanderson, Eric Sell, Teri Martin, and Carol Barlau (seated), have 83 years of combined service at McLeod Co-op Power. They keep our finances in check and our technology up and running.

Each month we will feature one or two departments within the Cooperative so members can have a better understanding of the functions handled behind the scenes. This month we are focusing on Financial Services and Information Technology.

Financial Services is responsible for general accounting, payroll, accounts payable, financial statements, taxes, investments, loans and governmental reporting. Information Technology takes care of computer hardware and software, telephone and other communications equipment, advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) integration, audio and visual equipment, and internet/network security.

Manager's Message — by Carrie L. Buckley, General Manager



Tributes to Fathers and Finance

As a child in a farming family, I yearned for the day I would be allowed to drive the tractor in the field, just like my father. He farmed his entire life. Though at the early age of 70 he turned over the full time effort to my brother, he continues, at 87, to farm in some way or another. It wasn't a job, it was a way of life. I was only a kid, but I knew my family was part of something special - a farming community.

The day did come when I was allowed to drive the tractor, though eventually it was clear the farming career wasn't for me. But what I learned from my father was to find work that wasn't a job, but a way of life. The electric cooperative world is my "farm".

June's a time to celebrate fathers. My dad taught me to think about the bigger picture; to find work I'm passionate about that helps the community.

Let's honor the fathers who keep our community strong. Happy Father's Day.

I'm not the only employee at McLeod Cooperative Power who has found their career with the electric cooperative. This month I would also like to pay tribute to our Finance and Information Technology departments. These employees are the strong, silent types. Success is defined by how little I hear from their departments. In other words, "No news is good news!" We don't celebrate their contributions nearly enough because they tend to work in the background. This month, they've allowed us to publish their pictures with a description of their contribution to keeping your Cooperative strong.

So, this June, not only give your Father a hug, consider a quick thank you to your accountant and your IT person too!

YEAR TO DATE FINANCIALS

3 months ending March 31

2015

2014

Operating Revenue

\$ 5,301,174 \$ 5,693,453

Cost of Purchased Power

\$ 3,357,367 \$ 3,641,354

Other Operating Expenses

\$ 1,610,060 \$ 1,642,086

Total Cost of Electric Service

\$ 4,967,427 \$ 5,283,440

Operating Margins

\$ 333,747 \$ 410,013

Non Operating Margins

\$ 98,823 \$ 64,226

Total Margins

\$ 432,570 \$ 474,239

kWh's Sold

51,334,518 51,957,506

Members Billed

6,601 6,583

Avg kWh Used, Residential/Month

1,790 2,008



The MCPA office will be closed Friday, July 3 in observance of Independence Day.

Outages may be reported
24 hours a day to
1-800-927-5685.

Board of Directors

District 1

Oria Brinkmeier, **Lester Prairie**

District 2

Joe Griebie, **Brownston**

District 3

Roger Karstens, Vice President
Hutchinson

District 4

Doug Kirtz, Secretary-Treasurer
Hector

District 5

Allan Duesterhoeft, **Hutchinson**

District 6

Gary Burdorf, **Arlington**

District 7

Randy Hlavka, GRE Representative
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 \$4.77 per year for members and \$8 per year for non-members by McLeod Cooperative Power Association
1231 Ford Ave. North, Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

Editor: Sue Pawelk

General Manager: Carrie L. Buckley

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 811 or 1-800-252-1166

Community solar garden now producing power

Construction of the Co-op's solar garden is complete. The arrays of both Great River Energy and the Co-op's community solar project are built and wired. Final interconnection and commissioning were done on May 22.

Just a few solar panel subscriptions remain.

If any member would like to participate, now is the perfect time. Just call the Co-op and we can help you get signed up to participate. Any member subscribing to the project will share in the energy produced each month for 20 years. Details and agreements are available on the Co-op's web site at www.mcleodcoop.com.



Meter installation update

Over 1,700 meters have been changed out this spring to new two-way meters. Within the next year, the Cooperative hopes to complete the replacement of all the meters on our system. The Turtle meter reading devices we had been using for over ten years became obsolete and were no longer being manufactured or supported by the manufacturer. After studying several systems the Co-op selected replacing our one-way meter devices with two-way meters. Many of the meters in Sibley County have already been replaced. Any meter with a Turtle device that fails and any new service installations are getting the new two-way meters right away.

The Cooperative is already benefiting from the new technology, as the meter communication is not interrupted when lines or substation circuits are back-fed due to construction projects. In past years,

meters had to be manually read by employees or accounts estimated if a construction project required back-feeding circuits, as the Turtle devices were only able to communicate through their designated substation. When temporary wiring changes were made, the Co-op quit getting meter readings until lines were put back to normal feed status. The new meters keep talking to us no matter what substation their power comes from. This is reducing problems with billing accounts in areas of line construction.

Chapman Metering has been actively installing meters for McLeod Co-op. You may see a Chapman meter tech in his white van in your area. The van bears a McLeod Co-op Power logo and a Chapman metering logo. Call the Co-op if you have any questions or concerns with anyone doing work on our electrical facilities.



Operation RoundUp receives \$5,000 matching grant

McLeod Co-op Power applied for and was awarded a \$5,000 matching grant from CoBank for Operation RoundUp. This will help the Operation RoundUp trust fund award more donation dollars to worthy community projects in the spring of 2016.

Regulatory changes have allowed the Co-op to now donate unclaimed capital credit funds that have not been claimed for seven years, to the non-profit Operation RoundUp organization. At the April board meeting, MCPA directors approved a plan to donate from unclaimed capital credits \$1,000 annually to the Ridgewater College Foundation for scholarships and any remaining funds to Operation RoundUp to help community projects in need of funding. The grant from CoBank will match up to \$5,000 in funds from the Co-op's unclaimed capital credit account that gets donated to Operation RoundUp in 2015.

Inspections are the law!

Anytime you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, remember that Minnesota state law requires a state wiring inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work. Inspections are required for ALL renewable energy (solar or wind) installations, no matter how small.

Minnesota has high wiring standards, which are in your best interest. Improper wiring can damage your property and equipment and injure or kill the people you love.

Inspectors for the counties McLeod Cooperative Power serves are:

- McLeod & Meeker Counties:**
Rod VanOrt 320-593-2880
- Renville County:**
Jeff Bute 320-583-5371
- Sibley County:**
Chris Gappa 507-317-7289
- Carver County:**
David Hucky 952-442-2761

Dairy farming is a family affair for the Meyers

Patti Meyer of rural Grove City grew up on a dairy farm, being tied down and unable to have the freedom a young woman wants.

"I said I would never marry a dairy farmer!" Patti admitted.

But after one blind date arranged by Patti's brother-in-law, her fate was sealed, and the dairy farming legacy continued.

"You should never say 'never,'" she added.

Her husband, Greg, grew up spending time on his grandfather's dairy farm and he enjoyed working with animals. When Patti met Greg, he worked as a herdsman for a dairy farmer, with a dream to have his own farm.

The couple rented a farm for five years until they bought their own farm in 1994. The 125-acre farm has a beautiful view of Long Lake in Meeker County and plenty of wildlife.

The traditional dairy has room for 62 Holsteins. As their three sons and one daughter grew up, they helped on the farm. The youngest son, Nathan, now works on the farm with his dad full-time. In addition to the milking herd, the Meyers also raise the replacements on the farm and sell the bull calves.

"I used to help in the barn, but now that Nate is here, I run errands and 'Grandma-sit' the grandkids," Patti said.

Any kind of farming has its share of challenges, as does dairy farming. Having a smaller dairy means you can't afford to hire help, so you are tied down at least twice a day for milking. Although Nate helps on the farm now, he's not sure he will make it a lifetime commitment.

Two other sons, Ben and Matt, are carpenters. Their daughter, Maggie, is still in high school and was chosen as a County Dairy Ambassador.

"Nate was trained as a welder, and he's good at it," Greg said. "Having a welder and carpenters in the family means I get a lot of free help."

Kidding aside, it's not unusual for children of dairy farmers to want something else for their lives. Greg said the average age of a dairy farmer is about 55 now.



Greg and Patti Meyer built this home on the dairy farm they purchased south of Grove City.



For the Meyers, Holsteins are the only cow they considered when purchasing their dairy herd, due to their high milk production.

"A lot have retired and don't have any family member who want to take over," he said. "It's a huge commitment. People want to be able to take time off."

Another challenge is the extreme dairy price highs and lows. When the lows hit, it's harder for smaller dairy farms to survive and many choose to sell out during those periods.

"Prices have really dropped the last three months," Greg said. "Prices really change quickly."

In the meantime, the Meyers do what they can to economize and run efficiently. Several years ago they installed a plate cooler to pre-cool the milk before it goes into the bulk tank. Cold water flows through the plate cooler, pulling heat from the milk. This extra heat eventually makes its way into the water

heater, reducing both the cost of cooling the milk and heating the dairy's water. The Meyers use a super-efficient Marathon water heater on the storage water program to maximize savings. They also utilize cycled air conditioning in their home and tapped into the grant resources at the Co-op to switch to more energy-efficient lighting.

The Meyers farm was selected by KLFD Radio as the site for the station's Breakfast on the Farm event June 25. It's a great way for farmers and others to get together for breakfast and celebrate all that dairy farms bring to the economy and rural way of life.

"I like being my own boss, being able to be home and raising our kids and grandkids," Greg said. "It's a good life."

Co-ops prevail in water heater debate

President Obama signed into law on Thursday, April 30, a key piece of legislation that enables hundreds of electric cooperatives, including your Cooperative, to continue utilizing large capacity, electric-resistance water heaters as part of their demand response programs.

A provision of the “The Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015” (S. 535) was written in response to a Department of Energy (DOE) regulation that would effectively ban the manufacture of water heaters with storage capacities of more than 55 gallons, which threatened energy and money-saving programs offered by electric cooperatives.

Under new U.S. Department of Energy efficiency standards, large electric water heaters over 55 gallons will be required to have an energy factor of at least 2.057, about double the efficiency of a high-efficiency electric storage water heater. This new standard could only be met with heat-pump water heaters, instead of the classic electric resistance water heaters, such as the Marathon water heaters the Co-op has recommended. The problem with this is that the Co-op’s storage water program is vital to shedding load during times of peak electricity use, which saves the Co-op, and its members, a lot of money.

Jo Ann Emerson, CEO of the National Rural Electric

Cooperative Association, said, “The bill helps save consumers money, promotes reliability of the grid and helps integrate renewable energy -- truly a win-win-win piece of legislation.”

Thirty-five states have utilities (of all sizes) with water heater load control programs. A collaborative effort between the National Rural Electric Association, DOE, lawmakers and other stakeholders aided in S.535 passing the U.S. House by a voice vote on April 21, which sent it to Obama for his signature.

Recognized as a national leader in load control, Great River Energy was at the forefront of the effort to preserve grid-enabled water heaters for demand response programs.

“Patience and persistence have paid off,” said Gary Connett, director of demand-side management and member services. “We maintained our position that the use of these water heaters for demand response is an integral resource asset for electric cooperatives. They help to save our members money and promote reliability of the grid.”

Now signed into law, the water heater provision in S. 525 sustains access to these water heaters while manufacturers also produce appliances called for in the new efficiency regulations.

Industry News

A Fair Path Forward

Why “net metering” reform is needed

Minnesota electric cooperatives and municipal utilities are owned, managed and operated by the customers they serve. That means we aren’t focused on stock prices or far away shareholders. We exist to provide reliable, affordable, safe and environmentally sensitive electric service to all our customers.

Because we are consumer-owned, we are also responsive to the unique needs of our communities. Consumer-owned utilities have developed innovative and industry leading renewable energy projects. These projects allow our customers to invest in our renewable energy future in a fair and equitable manner.

This legislative session, consumer-owned utilities are advocating for reform to a law we believe is inherently unfair to the majority of our customers. Small scale wind and solar producers, known as distributed generators, currently sell their excess generation back to the utility at retail rates (the price the consumer-owned utility sells electric power to our customers). When a distributed generator produces as much energy as they use, they don’t pay anything for the cost of operating the electric grid that they rely on when their wind or solar installation is not producing energy. These costs are built into the electric rates paid by utility customers; if a distributed generator is compensated at the full retail rate, the generating customer is not making any contribution toward the cost of operating the grid and those costs are then shifted onto the rest of our customers.

We believe this is unfair and that distributed generators should pay their share to maintain the grid that they need in order to sell their excess generation and keep their lights on when the sun isn’t shining or the wind isn’t blowing. The reform we are advocating doesn’t do away with net metering but allows consumer-owned utilities to collect the actual cost to serve distributed generators. This additional fee isn’t arbitrary or punitive but tied to the true cost to maintain the grid.

We aren’t asking to end net metering and will continue to support distributed generators with the technical know-how and technology needed for their systems to operate with the electric grid. However, we believe this reform is fair and needed to ensure that costs don’t continue to shift from distributed generators to the rest of our customers.

*Jack Kegel, Executive Director of the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association
Darrick Moe, President and CEO of the Minnesota Rural Electric Association*



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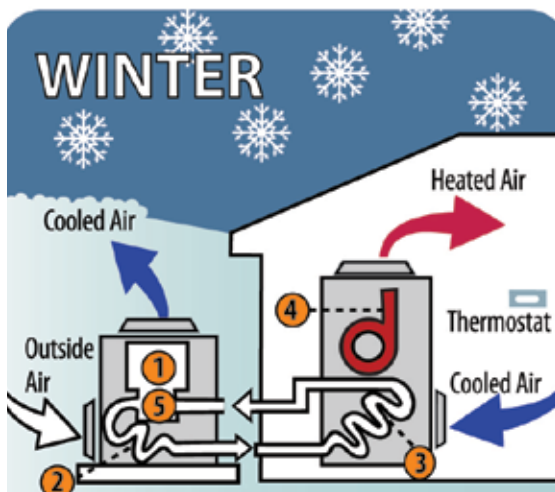
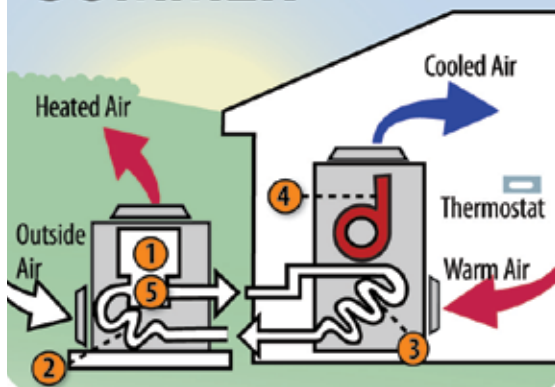


**ALWAYS
CALL
BEFORE YOU
DIG**

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

Coal Creek Tour has been cancelled for 2015 due to low number of reservations



Go to www.mcleodcoop.com to find out if it will be a load control day

If you participate in the cycled air conditioning program, a peak shave water heater program, an irrigation program, or a commercial and industrial interruptible program, you may want to know if your off-peak system will be controlled and when. By going to the Co-op's web site at www.mcleodcoop.com and clicking on the "Is it a Peak Day?" box on the lower right, you will get an update with specific hours when loads will be controlled that day. You can also access history on previous control days and see the forecast for load control tomorrow.

Keep your house cooler on extremely hot days:

- Do laundry early in the day or after 10 p.m.
- Wait until after 10 p.m. to start the dishwasher.
- Go out for dinner, cook in the microwave or on the grill, instead of using the stove or oven.
- Turn off or unplug the dehumidifier, computer equipment that is not being used, unnecessary lighting or rechargeable appliances until after 10 p.m.
- Turn your thermostat up a degree or two during the peak hours so your air conditioner run time is reduced.

Doing some or all of these conservation practices will keep your house cooler on hot summer days. Doing activities that add heat or humidity to your home on an extremely hot day requires your air conditioner to run longer and use more energy.

MCPA News Ads —

Free want ad service for members.

Please limit your ad to nine words. Use the coupon printed below or available at McLeod Cooperative's front desk to submit your ad. Ads will be printed for one month only. Please submit a new ad if you want it published more than one month. Include your name and address, which will be used for identification purposes only. Ads must be received by June 28 to be included in the July issue. Thank you!

Please run this ad in the next MCPA News

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Please check ad category

- Giveaway
 For Rent
 For Sale
 Wanted

Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____

Clip and Send to: McLeod Cooperative Power, ATTN: Classified Ads
 P.O. Box 70, Glencoe, MN 55336

For Sale - Miscellaneous

- Two pieces used corrugated fiberglass. Approx 12ft X 6ft. Make offer. 320-510-0983
- Tonneau cover, good shape. Came off of '04 Chevy 6ft box. \$150/obo. 320-587-2602
- DYNA 2hp 175 rpm electric motor. 320-587-6301
- Hobart cable player piano & roller. In working order. \$2,500/obo. 320-327-2472
- Lake lots west side Preston Lake, Buffalo Lake, MN. 320-562-2608

• J.D. GX345 lawn mower, 54 in deck, 733 hrs. \$2,750. 320-579-0267

• Hereford beef quarters, raised w/o drugs or hormones. 320-587-8711

• Oak rocker, heavy duty, excellent condition. \$75/obo. 320-327-2521

• Invacare all-electric hospital bed, mattress/pad, used 2 months. \$325. 320-328-4041

• Steel fence post. 320-587-8836

• Portable wood burning fireplace, never used, still in box. \$25. 320-238-2331

• 35mm Kodak carousel 800 slides projector & screen. \$50. 320-587-8065

For Sale - Farm

• 24 ft Allied bale elevator w/electric motor. \$360. 952-467-2103

• 20 ft steel hay bunk. Good condition. 320-583-7360

• 60ft 800 gal sprayer w/Ravan controller. \$3,000/obo. 320-365-4870

• 18-4-28 band duals for Allis

Chalmers. \$40/make offer. 320-833-2090

• Flatbed bale rack John Deere 6 ton wagon. 320-864-3274

• Flatbed bale rack John Deere 6 ton wagon. 320-864-3274

• J.D. 4010 diesel tractor, syncro, great shape, 12 volt. \$10,000/obo. 320-583-4968

• Seven 16 ft hog panels. \$25. 320-833-2090

• J.D. 3010 DL power steering, wide front. 320-587-8836

• Allis Chalmers tractor '78 diesel. \$6,000. 320-848-2487

Cleaning out your garage, attic or spare room? Try listing it for free in the MCPA classifieds.

These want ads are designed to help members buy items from or sell items to other members, or rent their property to members. They are not designed to advertise services or for-profit business pursuits. That is why we do not offer a services column and do not accept advertisements for commercial businesses.

Disclaimer — McLeod Cooperative Power Association (MCPA) assumes no liability for the content of, or reply to, any item posted. The party posting any advertisement assumes complete liability for the content of, and all replies to, any advertisement and for any claims against MCPA as a result thereof, and agrees to indemnify and hold MCPA harmless from all costs, expenses, liabilities and damages resulting from, or caused by, any advertisement or reply thereto.

Who pays for damage?

If the coming summer unfolds like a normal summer, we will experience a storm or two that includes lightning. Most times lightning passes through without much fanfare but occasionally a bolt strikes close to home, and in turn, damages electrical equipment.

When that happens, it is not uncommon for McLeod Co-op Power to receive an inquiry from a member asking if the Cooperative's insurance covers appliances, computers or other member-owned equipment that has been damaged by lightning strikes to our electrical system.

Is the Cooperative liable for damages due to lightning? The answer is no. Lightning strikes are an act of nature and the Cooperative is not liable for acts of nature. If you have damage to your personal property as a result of voltage fluctuation from a lightning strike, you need to contact your home or business owner's insurance to file a claim.

Damage to member-owned equipment from voltage fluctuation is not limited to lightning strikes. Electrical equipment failure can also be the culprit for low or high voltage and in turn, cause damage to member-owned equipment. Again, any damage to member-owned appliances or equipment should be turned over to the member's insurance. Only in the case of negligence would the Cooperative's insurance be liable to possibly pay for damage to a member's property. An example would be if we incorrectly wired the electrical service so damage was caused to the member's property.

An option to reduce the risk of lightning surge damage to your personal property is to use surge protection devices. Individual power strip surge protectors are relatively inexpensive but the downside is you may need to purchase a number of these surge protectors to cover all of your appliances and electrical equipment.

April Outage Summary

During April there were 28 outages reported on the Cooperative's system.

The largest outage affected 19 consumers. On Wednesday, April 1, at 7:22 p.m. lightning caused an outage for one hour and 37 minutes near Buffalo Lake.

The next largest outage was on Tuesday, April 28 at 8:23 p.m. Eleven members were without power for 42 minutes south of Glencoe. Outage was caused by a damaged fuse cutout.

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.



AC tune-ups eligible for credit once every two years

Announcing the 2015 air conditioning tune-up program.

Just schedule a tune-up of your central air conditioner or air source heat pump (unit must be at least 5 years old and in working condition to qualify) and when your licensed professional HVAC contractor performs the service work, have them complete the rebate coupon below. Send the completed rebate form to the Cooperative with a copy of the contractor's invoice. His tune up must include the items on the coupon. After the Co-op receives your documentation, we will credit your electric bill \$25 within 4-6 weeks.

Air Conditioner/Heat Pump Check List

Eligible for credit a maximum of once every 24 months

Owner _____
 Acct. # _____
 Address _____
 Location # _____
 Phone # _____
 Company doing Tune-Up _____
 Technician's Name _____
 Company Phone # _____

CHECK LIST

Brand Name _____
 Model # _____
 Serial # _____
 Tons/BTU Rating _____ SEER Rating _____

- Clean Outdoor Unit
- Clean and Inspect "A" Coil
- Check Blower Belt
- Compressor Motor Amp Reading Check
- Compressor Amp Reading Check
- Blower & Oil
- Blower Motor Amp Reading Check
- Check Filter
- Check Refrigerant Level & Pressure
- Blow Out Drain Line
- Visual Inspection of Cooling System

Recommendations _____

 Technician Signature _____
 Date _____

Habitat for Humanity house moves to Hutchinson

The Crow River Habitat for Humanity project moved a house from Glencoe to Hutchinson on Tuesday, May 12. The home started as the lone house in a development just west of Miller Manufacturing on Highway 22 outside of Glencoe. Thien Movers brought the house west on Highway 22 to Lace Avenue and travelled north on Lace Avenue up to Highway 7 during the day on May 12. Crews from the City of Glencoe, McLeod Co-op Power, and Great River Energy were along the route to provide clearance beneath power lines. In several spots, linemen had to take down power lines and then put them back up again after the house had travelled through. This resulted in short power outages for some members in Rich Valley Township.

The last leg of the route from Lace Avenue west into Hutchinson was done between midnight and 4 AM on the 13th, as travel is only permitted for houses during the middle of the night on major roadways like Highway 7. Crews from McLeod Co-op Power were again working to disconnect and reconnect power lines in the path of the home along Highway 7.

The cost of Co-op labor and equipment for a house move is paid by the company moving the house. The general membership of MCPA does not subsidize the cost in any way.



The house has clearance to move beneath the three-phase City of Glencoe power line along Lace Avenue (near Spruce Ridge landfill) because MCPA line crews had already dropped the distribution wires underneath. Wires were reconnected as soon as the house passed by.



MCPA crews are shown clearing power lines just ahead of the house on Lace Avenue.

Know of a new or expanding business that plans to locate in this area?

McLeod Cooperative Power has an Economic Development Loan Fund established to assist with gap financing for business projects in McLeod, Renville, Sibley, and Carver Counties. One of the main criteria for eligibility is job creation. If you are a business owner looking to locate your business in this area or start a new business, and you are interested in applying for some competitive rate loan funds, contact Sue Pawelk at McLeod Co-op Power 1-800-494-6272 for details.

Back in 2005, McLeod Cooperative Power applied for a USDA grant on behalf of the Buffalo Lake Economic Development Authority to build a grocery store and bakery in downtown Buffalo Lake after the 2003 tornado destroyed many of the Main Street businesses.

The Cooperative's Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund was established from that grant and as the loan funds have been repaid over the years the fund has been replenished and money is available to be loaned out for new projects. This is how the Co-op helped with gap financing for the Adult Training & Habilitation Recycling Center in Watertown.

McLeod Cooperative Power is committed to revitalizing the rural communities in our service area. It is our goal to utilize this revolving loan fund for job growth and economic health of our area. Applicants or projects do not need to be electric customers of McLeod Cooperative Power to apply for funding. Review and approval of loan applications rests with McLeod Cooperative Power.



We need your phone # for faster outage reporting

To make reporting a power outage as fast and easy as possible, the Co-op needs your current landline or cell phone number in our billing data base.

Please check the Service Summary box, located in the upper right hand corner of your electric bill.

Is your phone # correct?

If it is correct, you do not need to do anything. If it is not correct, please call or e-mail our office, or write us a note with the correct number when you send in your bill payment.

If you share both your landline and cell phone numbers, that's even better. When you call in to the Co-op's 1-800-927-5685 outage line, if the number you call from matches what we have on your billing account, the process is much faster and easier. It will reduce your time waiting on the phone in the dark to report your power is out. We appreciate your help in this matter.