

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

October 2018

Serving our members with integrity

In the Star Tribune's Sunday business section on September 9, there was an article about a different Minnesota electric co-op that was being scrutinized for ownership in a mineral mine. In the September 20 issue of the Star Tribune there was a printed response from the co-op referenced. The co-op explained the situation and the legitimate way the profits from the sale of a subsidiary business were actually shared with the members, used for infrastructure costs, and re-invested into a potential mining deposit. Investing some profits from one successful business venture into a new one is not unusual, even for an electric cooperative. Overall, these business enterprises provide benefit to co-op members.

In case you read the first article and it gave you pause for thought about our Co-op, we wanted to assure you that McLeod Co-op Power operates under a strict guideline of accountability to its members. Our Co-op does not allow directors or executives to personally or financially benefit from any Co-op investment or subsidiary business. Historically, McLeod Co-op Power has made certain that all financial gains are used for the benefit of our electric members. It is important that our members understand the steps we take to safeguard their resources.

Our Co-op directors approached the 1993 investment into DIRECTV very cautiously. They were excited that it might bring rural TV service to our members, so they could have a variety of channels like the people with cable TV in town, but Co-op directors also deliberated long and hard before investing any Co-op money to buy a DIRECTV franchise territory. Fortunately, the DIRECTV

Serving members with integrity *continued on page 3*

Tetra Pak is first to sign up for 100% renewable energy



The Tetra Pak Processing Equipment Inc. manufacturing facility in Winsted, Minn has approximately 175 employees. This is one of Tetra Pak's first plants to secure 100 percent renewable electricity supply.

The management team at Tetra Pak Processing Equipment Inc. in Winsted wanted to secure 100 percent of its annual kilowatt-hours as renewable energy. Their parent company in Europe is committed to having its facilities across the globe be environmentally green, so Tetra Pak asked McLeod Co-op Power if it could deliver 100 percent of their electricity from renewable sources. Thanks to Great River Energy's Retail Wellspring Wind C&I Rate, the Co-op was able to offer them 100 percent renewable energy for an additional premium to their rate, which was a convenient and economical solution for Tetra Pak.

Tetra Pak purchases power for its Winsted facilities from McLeod Co-op Power, while Great River Energy (GRE) is the wholesale power supplier for the local co-op. Although other GRE

member-owner co-ops have had members inquire about the program, Tetra Pak is the first to ink a deal for the renewable rate. Tetra Pak's multi-year commitment begins in January 2019.

Tetra Pak is the world's leading food processing and packaging solutions company, operating in more than 150 countries. The company specializes in processing and packaging solutions for food and beverages.

Tetra Pak is one of three companies in the Tetra Laval Group that started in Sweden and today is headquartered in Switzerland. The company's Winsted plant manufactures stainless steel processing equipment, and evaporation and drying technology.

Tetra Pak *continued on page 7*

Have you dropped your telephone landline?

If you are now using a cell phone instead of a landline, please make sure you have shared that number with the Co-op. If we have your correct contact information in our data base it will make reporting a power outage faster for you. It will also provide us with an active number when the Co-op needs to notify you about a scheduled power outage in your neighborhood, to verify that your power has been restored or to contact you with a critical message about your electric service.

The current primary phone number we have on file for each member is printed in the box in the upper right-hand corner of your electric bill. Please verify that this is still an active phone number where we can reach you. Members may call our office M-F between 7:45 AM and 4:30 PM to report any changes or updated numbers. You may also drop us an e-mail at mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com or put a note in with your electric payment. We are able to enter multiple phone numbers and an e-mail address into your contact information.

We appreciate your time and assistance to update your contact information with us.

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(I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions, including multiple damages and civil penalties).

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



Cooperatives See the Future

Dramatic changes are transforming all aspects of the energy industry. Interest in renewable energy is at an all-time high, and ultimately consumers want greater control over their energy use and payment methods. The prevalence of smart-phone apps and "smart" technology for the home is increasing, and consumers and businesses are showing greater interest in electric vehicles. There's no denying it: electric utilities will have to make changes to the way they provide energy to accommodate these trends. Luckily, McLeod Co-op Power is uniquely positioned to meet these changing energy needs because we are a cooperative.

Co-ops are community-led.

October is National Co-op Month, which is the perfect time to highlight the many ways electric cooperatives are unique.

Cooperatives are locally governed, looking out for the long-term needs of their consumer-members.

I am proud to say electric cooperatives belong to the communities they serve. This heightened community focus allows us to quickly adapt to evolving consumer expectations. Our closeness to the community ensures a better response to these needs because we are led by the people that we serve.

Co-ops are a catalyst for good.

Electric co-ops, like McLeod Co-op Power, are a catalyst for good in their communities. Co-ops engage their consumer-members to do things that might otherwise be impossible or difficult, like more than 75 years ago when electric co-ops brought power to areas where other utilities did not find it economically feasible. Today, it means if you are interested in renewables but are concerned with the cost of ownership or technical

requirements of solar array maintenance, we can bring you an affordable solar option through our community solar array or the Wellspring renewable energy credit program. Or it means we bring youth baseball clinics to the communities we serve through partnering with our power provider, Great River Energy, and the MN Twins organization. It can also simply mean working with you to find ways to lower your bill through energy efficiency or energy storage.

Cooperatives exist to meet a need that was previously unmet in the community, and they are ever striving to anticipate and plan for the future needs of their consumer-members.

Electric cooperatives often partner with local groups to bring economic opportunity to their local community. It is this facilitation role that is often the most valuable strength of the co-op. Right here in our multi-county service territory, we have partnered with USDA to provide economic development gap loans to help local businesses start anew or to add business lines, with job creation as a result.

The co-op business model is unique. It is pragmatic, mission-oriented and puts people first. Co-ops strive to be a trusted voice in their communities. Co-ops have earned that trust because, while not perfect, they always have their members' best interest at heart and are determined to enrich the lives of those living and working in the communities they serve—now and in the future.

Proud to keep your lights on. Carrie

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES ARE



**COMMUNITY
BORN**

**COMMUNITY
LED**

**FOCUSED ON
YOU**

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Board of Directors

District 1 - Oria Brinkmeier, 320-485-2554

Hollywood Twp. in Carver Co., Winsted Twp. in McLeod Co., Victor, Woodland, & Franklin Twps. in Wright Co.

District 2 - Joe Griebie, Vice President, 320-779-1101

Hassan Valley, Sumter & Rich Valley Twps. in McLeod Co.

District 3 - David Resch, 952-449-1793

Bergen, Helen, & Glencoe Twps. in McLeod Co.

District 4 - Doug Kirtz, Secretary-Treasurer

dkirtz@mcleodcoop.com

Boon Lake, Brookfield, Osceola, Kingman, Preston Lake, Hector, Melville, Bird Island, Palmyra, & Norfolk Twps. in Renville Co. & East Lake Lillian Twp. in Kandiyohi Co.

District 5 - Allan Duesterhoeft, 320-587-9134

Lynn & Acoma Twps. in McLeod Co. & Ellsworth Twp. in Meeker Co.

District 6 - Gary Burdorf, 507-964-5815

Penn Twp. in McLeod Co, New Auburn, Green Isle, Dryden & Arlington Twps. in Sibley Co.

District 7 - Randy Hlavka, GRE Representative

rhlavka@mcleodcoop.com

Hutchinson & Hale Twps. in McLeod Co., Collinwood Twp. in Meeker Co.

District 8 - Keith Peterson, President

kpeterson@mcleodcoop.com

Collins & Round Grove Twps. in McLeod Co, Martinsburg, Bandon, & Wellington Twps. in Renville Co., Grafton, Moltke, Bismarck, Transit, & Alfsborg Twps. in Sibley Co.

District 9 - Gerald Roepke, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer

952-353-2153

Watertown, Camden, & Young America Twps. in Carver County

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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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McLeod Cooperative Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Correcting neutral-to-earth voltage conditions

As a member-owner of McLeod Co-op Power, you should feel free to call us anytime with concerns related to your electrical service. One area that can be a concern for livestock farmers is stray voltage.

McLeod Co-op Power offers stray voltage investigations at no charge to its members with livestock concerns/symptoms. We will work with members to determine if voltage levels could be causing cow behavioral issues and possible remedies. Stray voltage can also result from deteriorating and improper wiring, faulty equipment, or improper grounding.



The Minnesota Stray Voltage Guide outlines the steps farmers, electricians, utilities and their advisors can take to discover and resolve stray voltage concerns on livestock farms. When farmers and utility companies work together, stray voltage concerns are more likely to be satisfactorily resolved. To download the Guide, visit www.minnesotastrayvoltageguide.com

McLeod Co-op Power rolls out new farm energy management program

Agricultural producers are the focus of a new energy audit program that is now available to members of McLeod Co-op Power.

Qualified participants will receive one-on-one assistance in identifying and prioritizing energy efficiency opportunities to ultimately come away from the experience with an energy management plan to implement.

“We understand that each operation is unique and requires personalized assistance,” said Sue Pawelk, Customer Service Manager. “This program will take the guesswork out of where you should spend your time, money and efforts when it comes to energy management.”

Audit outcomes will provide information ranging from simple, no-cost operational changes that can save you money to an analysis of your energy use, which equipment is using the most energy and what can be done to decrease your energy costs.

McLeod Co-op Power is able to offer this opportunity with assistance from its wholesale power provider Great River Energy, which was recently awarded a \$100,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture’s Rural



Don’t waste time and money on equipment upgrades that won’t be beneficial to your operations in the long run. Your Co-op is here to help you!

Energy for America Program (USDA-REAP) to conduct these audits. Program participants will only need to pay 25 percent of the cost of their agricultural audit, with the other 75 percent being covered through grant funding. Average audit costs are approximately \$2,500 but can vary based on operation size.

Not sure where to start with the agricultural audit? Contact Shannon at McLeod Co-op Power 1-800-494-6272 to get more details.

Serving members with integrity

continued from page 1

business was very profitable. It provided significant non-operating margins to McLeod Co-op Power for many years. This investment helped keep electric rates down for almost a decade.

Following the sale of the Co-op’s DIRECTV franchise in 2004 to the now corporate giant DIRECTV, the revenue from the sale was used to purchase the Co-op’s first automated meter reading system and to finance some of its electric construction needs in lieu of borrowing funds from Rural Utility Services or commercial bankers. The Co-op also used \$60,000 as matching funds to attain \$300,000 in USDA economic development grant funds, which together has helped finance the start up or expansion of many businesses in our service area; bringing jobs to the local communities. A portion was also used for Wildblue/Exede Internet Service, which the Co-op offered until 2016, when it was sold to Northland Connect.

Today, McLeod Co-op Power still has a few subsidiary businesses or partnerships, including Briggs & Stratton generator sales and installation business, emergency medical pendant leasing, and performing electrical service work for the City of Arlington. We are also one of 13 owners of Heartland Security Services. The Co-op’s Board of Directors and management monitor these businesses to make sure they bring profitability and value to McLeod Co-op members.

Your local control through your Board of Directors is greater by being a relatively small electric co-op. Because we are smaller, with only 540-680 members per district, our directors get to know a lot of their members personally. Each director represents the townships in the geographic area

near where they live; so your director is located fairly close to you.

The benefit of our smaller Co-op is that you can call and talk to the management any time you have a concern. A member can contact their director if management was unable to satisfy their concern. Directors list their contact info on page 2 of the newsletter. A member can also request to visit with the entire board if an issue cannot be resolved, but it is very rare that the Co-op management cannot work out a reasonable agreement with a member. Accessibility like this is not afforded to investor-owned utility customers.

Interested members can volunteer to serve on the Nominating Committee to help select the best candidates for director elections. McLeod Co-op Power bylaws require at least two names to be on the ballot in any election. No incumbent can run unopposed. Members can submit their name to the Nominating Committee if they are interested in being a director candidate. It is a very open and accessible process.

Although some co-ops struggle to get the percentage of members voting in director elections out of the single digits, McLeod Co-op Power members take a more active role. In the past three years, which included elections for all nine districts, almost 26% of members have cast votes to choose their director. A ballot is mailed to each member. It is your choice as to whether you cast a vote.

There are benefits to being part of a big co-op, but there are also benefits to being a member of a smaller co-op. We hope our members appreciate the benefits of McLeod Co-op Power being more local, personal, accessible, transparent, democratic, and financially accountable to you, our member.



WHO POWERS YOU?

Inspired by someone making a difference in your community? Tell their story and they could win a cash prize.

Visit whopowersyou.com/enter between 10/1/18 and 11/4/18 and submit a photo of your nominee. Then tell us why that person inspires you and how they make a difference in your co-op community.

\$5,000 GRAND PRIZE

\$2,000 SECOND PLACE

\$1,500 THIRD PLACE

\$500 HONORABLE MENTION

TOGETHER, LET’S CELEBRATE THE POWER OF HUMAN CONNECTIONS

As the national network of more than 730 co-ops, Touchstone Energy Cooperatives value the people who elevate and energize our communities.

That’s why we are launching a contest to honor inspirational community members across the country.

Winners will be selected by a panel of judges based on the impact they have on the community. All entries must be submitted by November 4, 2018. Winners will be announced December 2018. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED.

VISIT WHOWERSYOU.COM FOR FULL CONTEST RULES

Sponsored by Touchstone Energy Cooperative, Inc., 4301 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203. ©2018.

Fall planning and preparation now can make for a safer, more comfortable winter later

It's been said that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Well, that's true, especially this time of year. Fall is the time of year when we prepare our gardens with mulch for a successful growing season next year; to rake the leaves to ensure a healthy lawn the following summer; to wash windows, do touch-up painting and even repair some things around the home.

It's also the perfect time to prepare the inside of your home for the winter months:

- Caulk around drafty windows.
- Replace worn, cracked, torn or missing weather stripping around doors.
- Consider a blower-door test from a certified home energy auditor. The test will reveal where air is getting in and out of your home, adding cost to heat and cool your home.
- Install outlet cover gaskets to prevent cold air from infiltrating your outlets.
- Replace dirty furnace filters and put it on your calendar to do so monthly.
- If you heat your home with radiators, bleed them at the beginning of the heating season so they flow more efficiently.
- Check to make sure your fuel tank is full and your furnace runs well. It's a good idea to have a professional check and clean your furnace to boost efficiency and make sure it will operate safely.
- Test your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors; replace batteries if necessary to make sure they are in working order. This is vitally important if you use a fossil fuel furnace and/or water heater.



While a fireplace may warm a small area of your home, it can also suck heated air from the room out through the chimney. Always close the fireplace flue when a fire is not burning.

- Make sure that your fireplace flue is closed when you're not using it. Consider installing a fireplace insert glass door while using, to prevent warm room air from being pulled up the chimney while



During the winter, covering cold surfaces like hardwood floors can improve comfort. An area rug can be visually appealing while helping retain indoor heat.

the fire is blazing. The draft caused by a fire will pull warmed air up the chimney, causing your furnace to work more.

- Take a look at your home's heating system. Is it distributing heat evenly and efficiently? Some registers could be blowing a lot of hot air while some barely any. Have it inspected by a qualified contractor to identify any shortcomings.



To make sure your home is being warmed effectively and efficiently, start each season off with a furnace inspection conducted by a professional. Photo Credit: NREL.gov

- Consider purchasing a generator to protect your household in the event of an outage caused by a winter storm.

Call your Energy Experts at the Co-op for advice on reducing your energy bills through efficiency.

If it's time to replace old, inefficient heating equipment, call the Co-op for advice on how to reduce your heating bills through the use of high-efficiency equipment and money-saving energy management programs. The money you save each month will pay back the investment you make in new, energy efficient equipment, especially when you add the Co-op's Energy Management rebates and use the low electric rate or monthly credit.

Now is the time to plan and prepare for winter, not when the bitter cold is nipping at your nose.



For safety, call an electrician to wire a generator into your home's circuitry. Never operate a generator in a closed space, even with ventilation. Always use outdoors with four feet of clearance surrounding the unit and at least 25 feet from your home's doors, windows and vents.

Your Co-op's priority is to always provide safe, reliable electricity. However, we all have seen how that objective can be undone by a strong storm passing through. In the event there is an outage, a hard-wired automatic generator can be a life-saver for some, and a real comfortable appliance to have.

For those members who choose a portable generator, there are some things to keep in mind for your safety and for the safety of any line crews working to restore power.

Avoid Carbon Monoxide Hazards

Generators exhaust carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas that can be deadly if inhaled. Always use your generator(s) outdoors at least 25 feet from your home's doors, windows and vents.

Never use generators inside the home or in enclosed spaces, even if you think you've got enough ventilation. Never use a generator inside the garage, even with the door open.

When using outdoors, make sure there is at least four feet of space on all sides and above it for adequate ventilation.

Avoid Electrical Hazards

Keep the generator dry and operate it on a dry surface. Do not use in rain or wet conditions. If needed, protect the generator with an open-sided canopy with plenty of clearance on all sides. Never contact the generator's electrical components while you are wet or while standing in water.

Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cord. Check the wattage of each appliance plugged into the generator and insure the total doesn't exceed the cord's wattage rating. Make sure the extension cord is free of cuts or tears and the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.

Make sure the generator is properly grounded.

- Never overload a generator. A portable generator should only be used when necessary to power essential equipment or appliances.
- Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down.
- Read and follow manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.
- To avoid fire hazards, turn off the generator and let it cool before refueling.

REMINDER: Connecting your generator to your home's electrical system must be done by a qualified, licensed electrician who will install a double-throw transfer switch to prevent backfeeding, which could electrocute lineworkers making repairs.



Do you need a home security system?

You need only watch the local news or read your newspaper to see the increase in burglaries of homes both in town and in the rural areas. Here are some statistics on home burglaries:

- 59% of home burglaries occur during the day when homeowners are at work or school.
- Most commonly broken into are homes with a lot of cover (such as trees, fences, long driveways).
- 95% of break-ins involve force, such as breaking a window or kicking in a door to gain access.
- 9 out of 10 burglars said that if they encountered an alarm or home security system they would not break into the home or business and would seek an easier target elsewhere.
- Homes without a security system are 2.7-3.5 times more likely to be burglarized.
- Often the main deterrent to getting a home security system is the cost. However, the national average loss from a burglary is \$1,725 and the cost of a home security system is far less.

You can purchase a home security system for as little as \$95 and our monthly monitoring costs start at \$21.95.

With a single app on your phone you can arm/disarm the system, lock/

unlock doors, turn the temperature up/down, turn lights on/off, and open/shut garage doors. In addition, members with a doorbell camera can see when someone comes to the door and even speak with them when at home or away.

Your member-owned security system company, Heartland Security, will

For a free security analysis, please call 888-264-6380 or visit Heartland Security online at www.heartlandss.com

Heartland Security

We're at the Top of the Class.

Our security and medical alert systems protect your loved ones from intruders, carbon monoxide, fire, medical emergencies, and other threats.

888.264.6380 | heartlandss.com

come to your home or business to give you a “no-pressure” quote for security cameras, fire alarms or card access and the best part is that you will have no surprises if you choose to have a system installed.

Heartland Security has been in business nearly two decades and only just recently had the first price increase in the company’s history with monitoring rates going up by just \$1!

Member Discount

Members can receive significant discounts because Heartland Security is cooperative-owned!

Trust

There are many reasons to choose a local security company instead of a national company. One of the best reasons is trust. You are more than an account number; you are a cooperative member. The same trust you have for your electric cooperative can be placed in the cooperative-owned Heartland Security.

Local

You will work with Heartland Security employees who live and work in the area. If an issue with your system comes up later, you will typically have the same technician who installed the system doing the service work.

Industry News

Renewable Energy SD business owner convicted

A federal jury convicted the owner of an Excelsior renewable energy firm of multiple fraud charges in connection with bilking more than 70 customers out of millions of dollars for wind turbines they never received.

Prosecutors charged Shawn Robert Dooling, 52, last year after an FBI investigation, alleging that he used Renewable Energy SD LLC, to draw more than \$13 million in payments from customers to whom he did not offer refunds when he failed to deliver wind turbines ordered between 2010 and 2013.

Throughout the scheme, authorities said, Dooling blamed the no-show turbines on third-party manufacturer delays and otherwise lied about the status of their orders.

After a six-day trial in St. Paul, jurors convicted Dooling of multiple mail and wire fraud counts and one count of engaging in a monetary transaction in criminally derived property.

~Star Tribune

Able Energy ordered to repay \$1.5 million to customers

A state court judge ordered Able Energy to repay \$1.5 million to about 80 customers, finding that the struggling solar company engaged in an “egregious” pattern of fraud including one instance where an employee forged a client’s signature on a contract.

Judge Richard Kyle Jr. said Able Energy and company owner Michael J. Harvey tricked customers into making large upfront payments on solar systems that were never completed with an array of false promises.

In some cases, he said, wary customers were reassured that parts would be ordered immediately for their projects when in fact the parts never arrived, allowing the company to squeeze extra money out of its victims.

Kyle concluded that Harvey and Able Energy “diverted payments received from customers for unintended purposes and unrelated projects.”

The ruling was issued in response to a lawsuit by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, which also moved to revoke Able Energy’s license in March after hearing from dozens of frustrated customers who have been waiting as long as two years for work to begin on their solar systems.

~Star Tribune

Notice to Members who are behind in your bill payments The Cold Weather Rule may not protect you!

Make plans now to pay your bill to avoid being without electricity this winter.

McLeod Cooperative Power regularly disconnects the electrical supply of members who do not pay for the electricity they use. While we dislike to have to disconnect members, it would not be fair to our other members if we allow certain members to use electricity for free while our other members pay.

The Cold Weather Rule was adopted to protect some people from having their primary source of electric heat disconnected between October 15 and April 15. However, this law doesn't mean there won't be disconnections. The law says that a person must be making regular payments or have set up a payment plan and be honoring those arrangements to avoid being disconnected. If you are behind in your payments and are counting on the Cold Weather Rule to protect

you from making any payments during the winter, think again. McLeod Cooperative Power will be doing disconnections this winter in accordance with the law.

Please read the full Cold Weather Rule summary below. The list of agencies who can provide assistance to qualifying residents having trouble paying their bill is on this page and is also listed on the back of any electric bill with a delinquent balance.

It is up to the member to make payment arrangements or seek assistance to avoid disconnection. Please do not wait. The sooner you contact us, the greater the chance you will have electricity all winter long. Call today at 320-864-3148 or 1-800-494-6272 for details about applying for shut-off protection or to make a reasonable payment arrangement.

Cold Weather Rule Summary

The Cold Weather Rule, which is part of the Public Utilities Act, prohibits utilities from disconnecting a residential customer for nonpayment during the coldest months of the year if the customer has met the requirements under item 1 below. Your Cooperative strictly adheres to that law and offers sources of help for those unable to pay their bill. The law reads as follows:

1 An electric cooperative must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a home between October 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all of the following conditions are met:

- Your total household income is less than 50 percent of the State Median Income.
- You have contacted MCPA, have set up a payment arrangement, and are reasonably current with your scheduled payments.

If all of these items are not satisfied the electricity may be shut off due to non-payment.

2 Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the cold weather months, the Cooperative will provide the following information to the customer:

- Notice of the proposed disconnection.

- A statement of the customer's rights and responsibilities.
- A list of local energy assistance providers.
- A statement explaining available time payment plans and other options to secure continued utility service.
- Inability to pay forms are available upon request.

3 Any residential customer whose service is disconnected on Oct. 15 may be reconnected if:

- The outstanding balance is paid.
- A mutually acceptable payment schedule is arranged.

Our members are important to McLeod Cooperative Power. We would rather work with you to set up a plan to pay your bill than disconnect your service.

4 The Cooperative will not disconnect service to a residential customer who has not responded to a disconnection notice without first investigating whether the dwelling is actually unoccupied. This investigation shall include a personal visit to the dwelling. If the unit is found to be occupied, the Cooperative will immediately inform the occupant of his or her rights under this policy.

5 If an involuntary disconnection is to occur between Oct. 15 and April 15, then the disconnection will not occur on a Friday or on the day before a holiday.

6 Any disputes over a residential customer's inability to pay for service, income eligibility, reasonableness of payment schedule or any other issue which a customer could raise under the Cold Weather Rule shall be referred for hearing, after reasonable notice, to the Cooperative's Board of Directors. The Cooperative and the customer shall have the right to present evidence and be heard in person at that hearing. The Cooperative's Board of Directors shall issue a written decision within 10 days after the hearing. No disconnection shall occur while a dispute is pending.

7 The Cooperative will notify all members, prior to Oct. 15, of its Cold Weather Rule. Names and contact numbers for energy assistance providers are listed on this page.

Attention military personnel

Minnesota law provides that a public utility must not disconnect the utility service of a residential member for nonpayment, that has been issued orders into active military duty, for deployment or for a permanent change in duty station, provided that they enter into an agreement with the utility to make payments towards their bill. Forms are available upon request.

Energy Assistance Providers

Kandiyohi, McLeod & Meeker Counties

United Community Action Partnership

PO Box 1359, 200 4th St. SW
Willmar, MN 56201
218 Main St. S., Suite 108,
Hutchinson MN 55350
Toll free: (800) 992-1710
Willmar: 320-235-0850
Hutchinson: 320-587-5244

McLeod County area

McLeod County Social Service Center

1805 Ford Avenue North
Glencoe, MN 55336
(320) 864-3144
(320) 484-4330 (Hutchinson
Toll-Free)
1-800-247-1756 (Toll Free)

Renville County area

United Community Action Partnership

500 East DePue Ave,
Olivia MN 56277
320-523-1842

Sibley County area

Sibley County Public Health & Human Services

111 8th Street
Gaylord, MN 55334
(507) 237-4000
1-866-396-9963

MN Valley Action Council

110 6th Street, P.O. Box 87
Gaylord, MN 55334
(507) 237-2981
706 N. Victory Dr.
Mankato, MN 56001
(507) 345-6822
1-800-767-7139 (Toll Free)

Carver County area

Scott-Carver-Dakota Community Action Agency

712 Canterbury Road South
Shakopee, MN 55379
(952)-496-2125

Wright County area

Wright County Community Action

130 West Division Street
Maple Lake, MN 55358
(320) 963-6500

Tetra Pak

continued from page 1

“It is Tetra Pak’s goal to have all of their processing plants utilizing 100 percent renewable energy,” said LeRoy Pomraning, safety and environmental manager at the Winsted site.

That goal could have posed an expensive alternative for the local plant, costing millions of dollars to install solar power at the facility if their electric co-op would not have had the renewable resources available.



LeRoy Pomraning, Tetra Pak Safety and Environmental Manager at the Winsted facility, is shown with the signed contract for a renewable energy rate.

McLeod Co-op Power and GRE will supply the purchased Minnesota-eligible wind technology Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) in accordance with the Retail Wellspring C&I Rate program and retire those RECs on behalf of the

customer. This specific program is open to large commercial & industrial accounts. McLeod Co-op Power also offers a Wellspring renewable energy option for its residential, farm and small commercial accounts.

Make hunting season last all year

Electricity continues to be a great value courtesy of your electric cooperative

August 2018 Outage Summary

During the month of August the Cooperative had a total of 64 outages. Planned outages were the most frequent cause of outages, with 28 outages attributed to planned construction or upgrade projects.

The outage affecting the most consumers was caused by trees hanging over/into power lines. On August 19, a feeder line outage south of Hutchinson affected 152 members just before midnight. Power was restored in two hours and 40 minutes. The

second largest outage affected 29 members north of Hutchinson. It was on August 19 just before midnight also. This line section outage was due to an equipment failure and members were without power for one hour and 46 minutes.

McLeod Co-op Power regrets any inconvenience these outages caused for our members. The Co-op reminds everyone that any downed power line can be dangerous. People should stay away from downed lines and immediately report the situation to 911, or their utility if they know who owns the power lines.

To avoid a potentially costly and fatal situation, slow down and look up. Be aware of your surroundings. Those power lines are energized and bringing electricity to your farm and your neighbor’s farm. Be aware of overhead wires, power poles, guy wires and transformers on the ground near any fields you are working in.

If you do come into contact with a power line, call 911 right away and stay in your vehicle to wait for help. If you damage a pole, transformer or piece of equipment, please contact the Co-op office right away at 1-800-494-6272 or after regular business hours at 1-800-927-5685.

MCPA News Ads — Free want ad service for members

Please limit your ad to nine words. Use the coupon printed here 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 October 29 to be included in the November issue. Thank you!

Please run this ad in the next MCPA News

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

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

Please check ad category

Giveaway

For Rent

For Sale

Wanted

For Sale Miscellaneous

- Used culvert 26ft X 16in. 320-864-4496
- Early American sofa/chair, brown plaid. Good condition. \$100. 320-587-8741
- Steel fence posts, all sizes. \$1/each. 320-587-8836
- Fish house 6 1/2ft X 15ft, side & rear door. 320-979-6313
- Electric adult wheelchair, used less than 6 months. \$2,000/bo. 320-234-7181
- Split oak & elm wood. Half to full cord. 320-587-5876
- 2016 Alterra 700 4-W Artic Cat, tiger trax, wench 3000. \$8,500. 612-735-4078
- 1988 Chevy pickup, 52,000 miles, no rust. 320-587-7746
- Ladies bike with child basket. New condition. 320-587-7746
- 55-gallon steel drums w/removeable lids. \$15/each. 952-353-2351
- 10ft - 18ft lengths steel roofing, like new. Make offer. 320-583-5388

For Sale Farm

- Small straw bales. 320-864-4496

- Antique 77 Oliver tractor, 1949. Excellent condition. 320-864-3282
- Implement wheel rims 8X15, 5 bolt, 4 each \$100. 320-587-4271
- 6620 combine corn/bean heads. Very good condition. 320-365-4174

Wanted

- 3-pt arms adjustment arms draw bar for 1959 MF 85. 320-587-7179
- Rear mounted 3pt snow blower, 54in to fit utility tractor. 320-587-7443
- Ford Mustang, years 2004-2008. 320-300-8985

Giveaway

- Wire enclosure 4 X 4 X 8. 320-300-8985
- Apples. 320-300-8985
- Firewood. 320-300-8985
- Quilting frame. 320-300-8985
- Shelf unit. 320-300-8985
- Henderson upright grand piano with bench. Good condition. 320-296-5001

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.

When is Dual Fuel controlled and why?

Members with Dual Fuel systems will periodically have their electric heat controlled as weather conditions, prices in the wholesale energy market, and regional power supplies dictate. Electric heat on Dual Fuel can be controlled for up to 400 hours per year and up to 12 hours in one stretch without recharge, so you want to make sure your back-up heating system is automatic and able to heat your home on the coldest winter nights for extended periods. Although control most usually will occur between 4 and 10 p.m. on a week night, it can happen in the morning and it can happen on a weekend.

Make sure your backup fuel supply is adequate!

For members with peak shave water heaters or Dual Fuel, control times are available daily by going to the Cooperative's web site. Click on "Is it a Peak Control Day?" on our home page for more detailed information and historical control times.

Meet the people behind your power



Whether dispatching crews to a power outage, bringing safety programs to area school children, or volunteering in their community, our employees care about their neighbors.

Debbie Ebert
Operations Specialist/Safety Coordinator

McLeod Co-op Power member
Dryden Township board member
Gaylord Islander Baseball board member
Church and community volunteer
Former youth athletic coach



Guess what's bin traveling on 212?

It is not every day that you see a grain bin that is 65 feet wide moving down US Highway 212. Motorists were watching and waiting as the bin travelled down the highway on September 6. McLeod Co-op Power line crews worked to disconnect conductors in its path from the former ethanol plant property in Buffalo Lake to it's new home at a grain farm just west of town.



Do you know an organization that has made outstanding contributions to the local community?

McLeod Cooperative Power is seeking applications for the Touchstone Energy Community Award, which recognizes local businesses, non-profit and community groups that have shown a strong commitment to the community. Any organization that has helped make their local community within McLeod, Renville, Sibley or Carver Counties a better place to live and work is eligible to be nominated for the **\$500 cash award**.

Community members may nominate an organization, association or business by completing an application form. Applications forms are available at McLeod Co-op Power, 1231 Ford Ave. N., Glencoe MN or by calling the Co-op office 1-800-494-6272. Questions may be directed to Sue Pawelk.

The application will require a description of the project, program or event and the positive impact it brought to the community. Completed applications must be received at McLeod Co-op Power's

office by October 31, 2018.

"As an electric cooperative serving this area, we have a high regard for community involvement," General Manager Carrie Buckley said. "This award allows us to highlight and encourage those organizations that have shown an outstanding commitment to the community."

The local \$500 award recipient will be announced in November and will then contend for the statewide Touchstone Energy Community Award, which has a cash prize of \$1,000. The statewide award winner will be recognized at the Minnesota Rural Electric Association annual meeting in February 2019.

The Minnesota Touchstone Energy cooperatives are part of a national alliance of more than 750 electric cooperatives in 46 states that adhere to the values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. Email the Co-op to request an application at mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com.