



Extreme weather highlights importance of reliable electricity

On a normal day, having reliable electricity means you can charge your phone, watch TV and cook dinner.

During extreme cold weather, however, reliable electricity means so much more. Electricity (539-37-241) is essential for almost any home heating, whether through all-electric heating systems or for powering the components of a furnace.

The importance of electricity was on display a year ago when a polar vortex sent temperatures well below zero and stressed the electric system for several days.

Great River Energy (GRE) carefully operated and monitored the electric system to ensure energy continued to reach Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) and the 27 other cooperatives it serves.

When winter weather turns dangerous, power line crews suspend normal maintenance in order to closely monitor the grid and fix issues that arise due to cold temperatures, ice and wind. “When our system is stressed or damaged, our crews work around the clock to keep the grid operating for our consumer-members,” said Priti Patel, GRE’s vice president and chief transmission officer.

GRE works with the regional grid

operator, known as the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), and neighboring utilities to prepare for possible scenarios. During events like the polar vortex, MISO can issue cold weather alerts, which direct utilities to prepare all power plants to be dispatched on short notice.

Wind energy now represents a hefty portion of the energy on the Midwest electric grid. However, when temperatures dip below -20 degrees Fahrenheit, wind turbines can shut down entirely to protect vital components.

That’s where GRE’s “peaking” power plants come in. When demand for electricity is high (times of “peak” demand), these plants provide additional energy typically fueled by natural gas. During extreme cold, when natural gas is also needed to heat homes and schools, those same plants can operate dependably with fuel oil.

“The handful of coldest days of winter demonstrate the value of a diverse portfolio of generation resources,” said GRE Vice President and Chief Power Supply Officer Jon Brekke. “It requires a variety of fuels and technologies to ensure our members are warm and comfortable in every season and in any weather.”

Energy saving tip

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter clothing. You’ll spend less time drying the lighter-weight items.

Source: energy.gov

Mark your calendar

Dec. 25 Merry Christmas!
Electric bills due

Jan. 1 Happy New Year!

Our office will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, but linemen will be on call for outages.



Find your location number and win a \$10 credit

If you find your location number (as it appears on your monthly electric bill) in this issue, you will receive a \$10 credit.



Manager’s Message



Christmas tree safety tips



Employees and director honored for years of service



Final FEMA funding from 2013 April Ice Storm received

We would like to extend a special thanks to our state senators and congressmen. Due to their diligence and that of our staff, we received official notice on November 15 that we would be receiving \$879,350. After rounds of appeals for disaster aid from the April 2013 Ice Storm, this is very welcome news. The cooperative lost more than 1,500 poles and had over 3,000 members without power. This money, although already spent, restored our damaged electrical system to pre-disaster condition.

Concern for Community Shines All Year Long

The holidays are here, and it's a time when our community members come together to celebrate the reason for the season. Gift-giving abounds for friends and (5-12-46) loved ones. It's also a time when many people give back. With nearly one-third of all charitable giving taking place in December, it is indeed the season of giving.

Sharing with others, whether that's through charitable giving or through volunteering your time and talents, is a way to strengthen communities.

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, created to serve the needs of area residents, one of our core principles is "Concern for Community." In addition to providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, giving back is a cornerstone of our business model. We work hard to help our communities thrive not only during the holiday season but all year long.

Amid the hustle and bustle of the season, it's also a wonderful time to slow down and reflect. (539-41-185)

Because you're an owner of NCE, you played an essential role in contributing to our mission to be helpful stewards in the community.

By serving the community, we're proud to offer electric service that keeps homes warm during Minnesota's cold and snowy winters. During the holidays, indoor and outdoor lights shine brightly and serve as festive reminders of the season. Inside the home, implementing energy efficiency measures keeps dollars in your wallet. That's a gift that keeps giving all year long!

Because of your electric co-op's local ownership structure, we're members of the community just like you. We're proud to help make a meaningful impact where we all call home.

Our employees generously volunteer their time to support their local fire departments, community groups, schools and churches, just to name a few.

Investing in the next generation of

leaders is part of every electric cooperative's mission. By offering safety programs, funding scholarships, providing gifts of warm clothing to those in need (K12 program) and sending students on an all-expense-paid Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., devoting resources to youth is an important way your co-op gives back.

There are other ways we help the community, such as our Operation Round Up program or investing in economic development projects by helping to retain and attract area businesses. NCE's members, employees and directors know that no matter how great or small the act, every time we give back, we strengthen our community. We're proud of how you help us to support these efforts.

As we prepare for 2020, we're grateful for the opportunity to serve you and the greater community. We hope your holidays are safe, merry and bright!

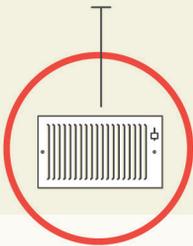


Holiday Tree Safety Tips

Ensure a merry and bright holiday season by safely maintaining your tree with the following tips.

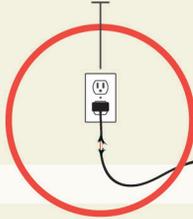
Keep away from heat:

Make sure your tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like an air duct, fireplace or space heater.



Examine cords:

Examine extension cords and lights for signs of damage. Frayed electric cords should be discarded.



Keep it watered:

Fill the water reservoir daily and check the condition of the trunk bark and branches for moisture. Shedding or dry needles could mean the tree is drying out, increasing overall fire risks.



Inspect lights:

Carefully inspect all electrical decorations before you use them. Cracked or damaged sockets and/or loose or exposed wires can cause serious shock or start a fire.

Trim the stump:

Trim the tree's stump by at least two inches on freshly cut trees. Allow it to absorb water for 24 hours before bringing it inside.

Source: National Fire Protection Association

Bring in the New Year with lower energy costs

A new year is a chance for a new beginning. If you want a new beginning that involves saving money, the Energy Education Council has the following tips:

- **Heating and cooling** – Since heating and cooling is such a big cost, it is a good place to begin your savings. During winter, dress warmly and keep the temperature in home moderate. In the summer, wear light clothing and use fans to keep cool instead of running the air conditioning. You can save money any season by closing off rooms that you do not need to heat or cool.

- **Water heating** – We need warm water throughout the day to shower, cook and clean. We do not need warm water every moment of the day. However, many people's water heaters work (39-23-54) hard to keep water warm constantly. You can give your water heater a break by setting its temperature to 120 degrees.

- **Appliances** – Do laundry in cold water, when possible. Air dry dishes and line dry clothes as often as possible.

- **Electronics and other devices** – Let Energy Star® help you cut costs. Energy Star® products use less

energy than other products. Even if you are not replacing electronics, you can save money by unplugging products that are not in use.

- **Lighting** – Lighting is one of the easiest ways to increase your home's efficiency. Switch to LED light bulbs. They use (26-7-45) significantly less energy than traditional incandescent light bulbs and last longer.

For more energy efficiency tips, visit EnergyEdCouncil.org.



Employees & director recognized for years of service



Carla Frisvold
Customer Service Rep.
35 Years



Brenda Schroeder
Customer Service Rep.
20 Years



Ryan Loomans
Journeyman Lineman
15 Years



Cody Hansen
Meter/Mapping Coordinator
10 Years



Sherry Swanson
Chief Financial Officer
5 Years



Bruce Barber
Director
5 Years

Complaint process for Iowa consumer-members

If you have a concern or complaint regarding NCE, the complaint should be addressed to Adam Tromblay, General Manager, Nobles Cooperative Electric, P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187-0788, phone 507-372-7331, 507-836-6107 or 800-776-0517. If your complaint is related to the services of NCE, rather than its rates, and NCE does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Utilities Division, Department of Commerce, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319, phone 515-281-5979.

November Auto Pay Winner: Take a minute to sign up for Auto Pay and you may win a \$25 bill credit. A winner is chosen each month.
Michael Erbes!

Country Cupboard

Crock Pot Stuffing

Cook 1 c. margarine, 2 c. chopped onion and 2 c. chopped celery
Then put everything in a crockpot including the ingredients below:
12 c. dry bread
1 tsp. parsley
2 sm. cans of mushrooms
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. pepper
1 1/2 tsp. sage
1 tsp. thyme
2 eggs, beaten
3 1/2 to 4 1/2 c. chicken broth

Cook 45 minutes on high or 4 to 8 hours on low.
Send your family favorite **cookie** recipe to Nobles Cooperative Electric, ATTN: Tracey, P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187-0788. Entries must include your name, address, telephone number and NCE location number. All entries must be received by December 25. The winning recipe will be featured in the next edition of *Current Matters* and the winner will receive a **\$10 credit** on their electric bill.

Robin Gehl
Dundee



**Nobles Cooperative
Electric**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Official monthly publication

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Monday through Friday

24-Hour outage service

800-776-0517

Gopher State One-Call

800-252-1166 or 811

Electrical inspectors

Murray County
Randal Maha - 507-274-5261
Nobles County
Adam Feste - 507-690-2741

General Manager

Adam Tromblay

Board of Directors

Ronald Schwartau, President - 734-3052*
Lee York, V. President - 879-3497*
Cindy Hokeness, Sec./Treas. - 478-4965*
Bruce Barber, Director - 329-2991*
Jerry Beckering, Director - 227-4074*
Gary Clarke, Director - 605-201-1903
Gary Sieve, Director - 926-5455*

*Telephone prefix 507

Next Board Meeting

December 19, 2019

*This cooperative is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.*

