



Current Matters



Nobles Cooperative Electric

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Help us beat the peak

If you look around your home, you will likely see more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity to function. At the same time, as demand for electricity rises, Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) must deliver an uninterrupted 24/7 power supply—regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.

As you would expect based on your family’s habits, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on member demand. NCE must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs (504-37-137) of all members during times of highest energy use or “peak hours.” These peak times are typically in the morning as people start their day and in the evening as people return to their homes.

What you may not know is that electric utilities, including your cooperative, typically pay more for electricity—either from a power plant or from another utility with excess power—during those morning and evening “energy rush hours.” In addition, the demand for electricity is even higher when it’s especially cold outside, when heating systems must run longer to warm our homes.

If the “peak times” concept is a bit puzzling, here’s an easy way to think about it, and its similarities to a major concert. We know costs go up when there is strong demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand. When a lot of people want the same thing, it’s more expensive. When they don’t, it’s cheaper—like a bargain matinee or an “early bird” special at a restaurant.

During peak periods when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, we encourage you to take simple steps to save energy, such as turning your thermostat down a few notches, turning off unnecessary lights and waiting to use large appliances during off-peak times.

You can also save energy by plugging electronics and equipment such as computers, printers and TVs into a power strip, then turn it off at the switch during peak hours. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings to sync up with off-peak rate periods.

When we all work together to reduce (539-41-122) energy use during periods of high electricity demand, we can relieve pressure on the grid and save a little money along the way.

Energy saving tip

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.

Mark your calendar

Feb. 20 Presidents’ Day
Feb. 28 Electric bills due
Mar. 12 Daylight savings time

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.

February Auto Pay Winner Gregory Baustian

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



Manager’s Message



Personnel changes at the cooperative



Be sure to take advantage of 2023 Rebates



Your cooperative is prepared for any weather

Just as you take precautionary measures to prepare for the winter season, so too do utilities and the organizations that manage, monitor and regulate the electric system.

Grid stakeholders work together year-round to ensure electric service is reliable by conducting various assessments ahead of each season to project the energy needs of homes and businesses. This process provides especially important information for summers, when temperatures can soar, as well as each winter when they can fall dangerously low.

The results of these assessments, which consider probable and worst-case scenarios, help guide utilities like Great River Energy (GRE) when managing their electric systems during extreme weather and elevated demand for electricity.

Assessments conducted by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) for this upcoming winter found that the grid has a sufficient supply of capacity resources to meet consumer demand under peak conditions.

However, NERC’s assessment highlights risks presented in specific regions — including portions of MISO’s southern territory — in the case of extreme, prolonged cold weather.

MISO acknowledges one of winter’s key challenges is the potential for “high risk, low probability” events, such as unusually cold weather, intense



Operation Round Up accepting applications until March 1

Applications can be found online at: <https://noblesce.coop/operation-round-0> or give us a call for more information



storms and/or fuel supply issues that could impact available power and create challenges. Operating the power system is extremely complex and adverse weather conditions can test the resiliency of the electric grid.

The NERC assessment mentions that MISO has implemented actions to provide situational awareness and early coordination for reducing risks from extreme winter weather since 2021. It also indicates that an upcoming change to the way MISO plans for energy resources — which will consider the unique needs of each season — will better align winter resource capacity with peak winter load needs.

For its part in maintaining reliability, GRE has access to a diverse portfolio of power supply resources, including peaking resources with dual fuel capability, which means they can operate on fuel oil when natural gas supply is constrained. This fuel flexibility is an important characteristic (29-50-118) for system reliability and as a hedge against market and natural gas prices. The cooperative also focuses on the

weatherization of these plants to support resilient and reliable operation during extreme weather events.

These resources combined provide our membership with the reliability needed to get through the coldest nights this winter. GRE also added another 300 megawatts of wind to further diversify the power supply portfolio and help provide a hedge in MISO’s daily markets.

GRE, in partnership with its member-owner cooperatives, also has the largest demand response program for a utility of its size in the country according to data collected by the Energy Information Administration. This means GRE system operators can dispatch up to 370,000-plus appliances enrolled in demand response programs when needed to manage reliability.

In addition to reducing sometimes hundreds of megawatts of electricity demand, this strategy helps GRE avoid making purchases from the energy market during the periods of high pricing that often coincide with high demand and unusual weather events, which saves members money.

New employees start in January at the cooperative—

WELCOME to the team!



Darren Engelkes

1,000 Hour Apprentice
Lineman

- Graduate of Murray County Central and Mitchell Tech
- Parents: Terry and Jennie Engelkes
- Hobbies and interests: Snowmobiling and working on trucks
- Quote: Whatever you are, be a good one. - Abe Lincoln



Dylan Freking

Meter/Mapping Coordinator

- Graduate of Heron Lake Okabena and South Dakota State University
- Parents: Mark and Sheila
- Hobbies and interests: Fishing and hunting
- Former warehouse assistant at NCE



Alex Schmiesing

1,000 Hour Apprentice
Lineman

- Graduate of Wabasso High School and Minnesota West, Jackson
- Parents: Mark and Suzanne
- Hobbies and interests: Woodworking and fishing.

Hansen promoted to line superintendent

PROMOTION



Cody Hansen has been promoted to line superintendent following the retirement of Brian Postma.

The line superintendent fills a unique role at (15-8-24) the cooperative. Hansen will be responsible for managing and directing all construction and maintenance activities on the electric distribution system, promoting safe work practices, overseeing the maintenance on all cooperative vehicles and equipment, and ensuring that we have the proper inventory of materials, tools,

and equipment necessary to provide quality service to our members.

Cody was a lineman at the cooperative from May 11, 2009 to November 30, 2014. On December 1, 2015, he was promoted to Meter/Mapping Coordinator.

“Hansen has been a great asset to the cooperative”, said General Manager Adam Tromblay. “We are fortunate to have Cody help us continue to provide reliable, affordable and safe electric power to our members.



New Year, New Savings.



Visit our website to learn about programs to help you save energy and money.

2023 Residential rebates available:

- Replacement Energy Star refrigerator or freezer = \$75 (with recycling of old one)
- Electric Energy Star clothes dryer = \$25
- LED home lighting = \$2 per bulb (max.)
- Electric water heater cost = \$550, plus tax (Marathon)
- Ground source heat pump = \$200 per ton
- Air source heat pump (installed by quality installer)
 - HSPF 8.2 = \$500
 - HSPF 9 = \$800
- Ductless air source heat pump = \$300 to \$500
- ETS space heating (per kW) = \$50
- Energy Star dehumidifier = \$25
- LED yard light = \$30

NCE has many **business and agricultural rebates** available. Contact Tracey at NCE for more information or visit our website at www.noblesce.coop/rebates. Applications and required forms must be submitted to be eligible for a rebate.

Statement of nondiscrimination

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Country Cupboard Breakfast Pizza

- 1 lb. browned pork sausage or 2 c. diced ham
- 1 pkg. Pillsbury Crescent Rolls
- 1 c. frozen shredded hashbrowns (thawed)
- 1 c. shredded cheddar cheese

Separate rolls, place in a round stone with a 1 1/2" side. (17-9-34) Place the point of each roll to the center of the stoneware. Press edges together on the bottom and the sides of the stone to form a crust. Sprinkle with potatoes, meat and cheddar cheese. Mix eggs, milk, salt and pepper and pour over all. Sprinkle with parmesan and bake at 375 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes.

Send your **cookie recipes** 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 February 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.

Chuck and Pam Barrie Westbrook

- 5 eggs
- 1/4 c. milk
- 1/2 t. salt
- 2 T. grated parmesan cheese



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22636 U.S. Hwy. 59
P.O. Box 788
Worthington, MN 56187-0788
Phone: 507-372-7331,
507-836-6107 or 800-776-0517

Website

www.noblesce.coop

Email address

nce@noblesce.coop

Office hours

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday
Oct. 1 - April 30

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
Austin Kurtz - 651-368-3021

General Manager

Adam Tromblay

Board of Directors

Ronald Schwartau, President - 734-3052*
Lee York, V. President - 879-3497*
Cindy Hokeness, Sec./Treas. - 478-4965*
Jerry Beckering, Director - 227-4074*
Timothy Bickett, Director - 605-670-5294
Gary Clarke, Director - 605-201-1903
David Dorpinghaus, Director - 605-695-7816*

*Telephone prefix 507

Next Board Meeting

March 23, 2023

This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

