



Major power supply changes to reduce costs

Great River Energy (GRE) announced plans on May 7 to transform its portfolio of power supply resources in the coming years, significantly reducing member-owner wholesale power costs. The electric cooperative plans to phase out remaining coal resources, add significant renewable energy and explore critical grid-scale battery technology.

These plans included the difficult decision to shut down GRE's largest power plant, Coal Creek Station (above photo). Coal Creek Station has been a critical part of GRE's power supply portfolio for decades. The "flagship" power plant began operations in 1979 in Underwood, North Dakota, and employs 260 people.

Thousands of members have visited the facility and met the men and women who operate and maintain the plant. It has attracted families and businesses to central North Dakota and served as the hub of a thriving community.

GRE plans the following actions:

- Retire the 1,151-megawatt (MW) Coal Creek Station in the second half of 2022
- Add 1,100 MW of wind energy

purchases by the end of 2023

- Modify the 99-MW coal and natural gas-based Spiritwood Station power plant to be fueled by natural gas
- Install a 1-MW long-duration battery demonstration system
- Support the repowering of the Blue Flint biorefinery with natural gas

"We are building a power supply portfolio that will serve our member-owner cooperatives for decades," GRE President and Chief Executive Officer David Saggau said. "We are taking advantage of cost-competitive renewables and reliable access to market energy while fostering innovation as the technology of our industry evolves."

This announcement follows several changes GRE has made in recent years (21-21-21H) to seek economic efficiencies in its power supply portfolio. GRE is one of Nobles Cooperative Electric's (NCE's) wholesale power suppliers. Past analysis has led to decisions to exit a contract for half the output of a Wisconsin coal plant in 2015, retire the coal-based Stanton Station power plant in 2017, close the waste-to-energy Elk River Resource Recovery Project in

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Energy saving tip

Home cooling makes up a large portion of your energy bills. Try to keep the difference between the temperature of your thermostat setting and the outside temperature to a minimum. The smaller the difference, the more energy you will save.

Mark your calendar

June 21 Happy Father's Day!
June 25 Electric bills due
July 4 Independence Day
Our office will be closed on July 3. 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.



A word from your General Manager **Adam Tromblay**

Dirt work continues for new substation



The substation near Lismore will replace three older substations and will connect with the transmission line that runs along Minnesota 91. This new substation will improve power quality and reliability in the area.

We're here to help our members save

NCE is here for you, and given the challenging times we've all experienced the last few months, I'd like to share some information and ideas to help you save energy and money.

Summer is a great time to conduct an energy audit of your home and identify ways to (3-2-46) boost energy efficiency. Understanding how your home uses energy can help you determine the best ways to modify energy use and keep more money in your wallet.

An energy audit is one of the best ways to determine how energy efficient your home is—an audit can also identify areas for potential energy savings. There are several qualified energy auditors.



Be sure to hire a professional who will conduct a thorough audit of your home. If you'd prefer to do an energy audit yourself, try ENERGY STAR®'s online audit. Visit www.energystar.gov, then enter "home energy yardstick" in the search box to get started. But keep in mind, an online audit won't be as thorough as an in-home audit.

Members have the ability to help the cooperative avoid higher wholesale power costs during peak times. By performing some of your daily chores such as running the dishwasher or doing laundry during off-peak hours (when people are using less electricity), you can help the cooperative save money and in turn see meaningful savings on your energy bills.



Use your programmable thermostat to adjust the settings so that your heating and air conditioning systems sync with the off-peak rate periods. Use automatic timers to run hot tubs, pool pumps, water heaters and other appliances in the same way. Be sure to program the timers to coincide with the less expensive off-peak times.



Lastly, if you have recently purchased a new ENERGY STAR®-rated appliance or product, make sure you are taking advantage of any special offers or rebates that are available.

As your trusted energy advisor, we're here to help. If you have questions about your bill or additional ways to save energy, please let us know.

May Auto Pay winner: Patricia Edelman

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

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GRE plans to replace coal with low cost renewables and market energy purchases

2019 and purchase the output of several wind energy projects.

The portfolio changes will significantly reduce GRE's member-owner power supply costs. In addition, the cooperative's power supply resources will be more than 95% carbon dioxide free, virtually eliminating carbon risk.

"Our power supply plans deliver on our member-owners' three highest priorities: affordability, reliability and environmental stewardship," Saggau said. (5-5-40T) "Electric cooperatives have a bright future in Minnesota."

GRE plans to purchase more than 1,100 MW from new wind energy projects. This amounts to a more than \$1.2 billion investment in the Midwest's abundant clean energy resources. GRE's renewable capacity is projected to grow from approximately 660 MW in 2020 to more than 1,760 MW by the end of 2023. The GRE Board of Directors approved 600 MW of wind energy projects, most of which will be located in Minnesota.

GRE plans to add energy and capacity as needed through upgrades at its fleet of modern, natural gas peaking plants and purchases from the MISO energy market.

Coal Creek Station has been a critical part of GRE's power supply portfolio for decades, but it has lost value

compared to other alternatives in recent years. GRE plans to shut down both units of Coal Creek Station during the second half of 2022, although the cooperative is willing to consider opportunities to sell the plant. Coal Creek Station began operations in 1979 in Underwood, North Dakota, and employs 260 people.

"Like all of GRE's decisions, these changes are made in the best interests of our member-owner cooperatives," Saggau said. "Coal Creek Station is operated (33-70-200) efficiently, safely and with pride by a dedicated and talented staff. We will make every effort to minimize impacts on our employees and the communities through this transition."

To assist local communities during the upcoming transition, GRE plans to make voluntary annual payments of the local government share of the plant's taxes for five years after the plant's closure.

GRE plans to negotiate an agreement to terminate its steam and water supply contract with Blue Flint, an ethanol biorefinery fueled by process steam from Coal Creek Station. Blue Flint's owner, Midwest AgEnergy, is considering using the contract termination payment from GRE to reinvest in an economical alternate source for its process heat, thereby benefitting

area farmers by continuing to support the local market for corn.

Located near Jamestown, North Dakota, Spiritwood Station is a combined heat and power plant fueled by a combination of DryFine™ lignite coal and natural gas. GRE plans to modify the plant to be fueled with natural gas. The plant generates electricity for the regional electric grid and supplies steam to a nearby ethanol biorefinery.

GRE is working with Form Energy, a battery storage technology developer based in Somerville, Massachusetts, on a first-of-its-kind demonstration of Form's unique long-duration storage technology. The battery project will be a 1-MW grid-connected storage system capable of delivering its rated power continuously for 150 hours, far longer than the four-hour usage period common among lithium ion batteries. Long-duration storage will help maintain grid reliability in the future during extreme conditions, such as a heat wave or polar vortex. The battery system will be located in Cambridge, Minnesota, and completed in late 2023.

These projects will create hundreds of high-quality construction jobs. "We look forward to partnering with local labor and industry on our projects," Saggau said.

Welcome Amy Rucker!

We are excited to announce that Amy Rucker began employment on May 11 as an executive assistant. Prior to her employment at NCE, Amy worked as an economic development director for Murray County and an executive assistant for Fey In-

dustries. Amy and her husband, Mike, live in rural Lake Wilson. She has four step-children and six stepgrandchildren. In her spare time, Amy enjoys bicycling, canoeing, tennis and spending time with family.

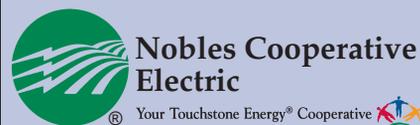
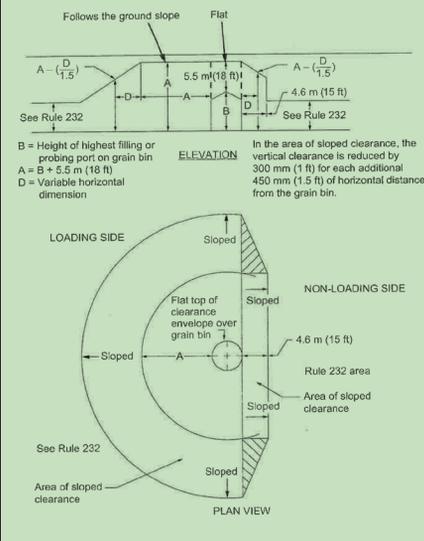


Plan ahead for proper grain bin clearance

Farmers who are planning to install a new grain bin can save time by including NCE in their planning process. The cooperative will provide assistance in planning for (23-43-21) a safe environment for everyone working and living around grain bins. Placing grain bins in the proper location is extremely important. Adequate clearance with power lines can reduce the risk of an accident occurring. The National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) specifies the line clearance required for grain bins and electrical needs.

NCE urges you to contact Brian prior to construction or remodeling. In order for us to be cost-effective and meet your needs on time, we need as much advance notice as possible.

Clearance for grain bins filled by portable augers or conveyors



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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.com

Summer office hours

7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday
May 1 - September 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
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

July 8, 2020

This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Updated DER technical requirements

In compliance with Minnesota Statute 216B.1611, NCE is updating the technical requirements for Distributed Energy Resource (DER) interconnections. The existing technical requirement document will be replaced with the Technical Interconnection and Interoperability Requirements (TIIR) and Technical Specification Manual (TSM). These new documents can be found after June 1, 2020, on www.noblesce.coop/interconnecting-nce. These requirements become effective July 1, 2020, and all new DER systems and DER system additions applied for interconnection after July 1 will be required to meet these updated requirements.

Country Cupboard Scalloped Potatoes

- 4 lg. baking potatoes
- 1 c. cheddar cheese
- 1/4 c. minced onion
- 1 can mushroom soup, plus 1/2 can milk
- 1 tsp. lemon juice or vinegar
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1/4 c. pimentos or green pepper (optional)

Boil potatoes with skin on, not quite done. Cool. Peel and dice so you have three cups. Mix remaining ingredients and pour over potatoes in a buttered casserole. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Serves 6 to 8.

Send your favorite **fruit salad** 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 June 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.

**Vonnie Rutgers
Brewster**