

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Co-ops Power Next Generation

**How Co-ops are
Engaging Youth**
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You Dig**
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Photo by Amanda Haugen

Lineworkers

Wired for Service



Char Hagar
General Manager

In the quiet hours before dawn breaks, while many of us are still nestled in our beds, lineworkers begin their day, often clad in flame-resistant clothing, safety goggles, rubber gloves and thick, heavy boots.

They are the individuals who epitomize dedication to service in its purest form. As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 14, this is an important moment to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives.

Amid towering utility poles and power lines, lineworkers exhibit a strength that goes far beyond the physical. Whether battling inclement weather, troubleshooting technical problems or navigating treacherous heights, lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination to keep our lights on, our homes comfortable and our communities connected.



Northern Electric Cooperative crews travel across our service territory, building, maintaining and repairing parts of our local system. Their extraordinary skills ensure our homes remain connected to the grid, businesses stay operational, and emergency services remain accessible – a lifeline that connects us all.

“This month, as we celebrate these remarkable individuals who ensure reliable power, let’s recognize their unwavering dedication to the local communities they serve.”

In moments of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers emerge as beacons of hope. Their swift response restores normalcy, offering reassurance in times of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-ravaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their unwavering commitment illuminates life when we need it most. Despite the challenges that come with their work, linemen will tell you they have the best job ever.

Northern Electric lineworkers also answer the call beyond the boundaries of home. Our crews travel to fellow co-ops, when widespread outages occur, and additional support is needed. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of our seven guiding principles, and no one embodies this core commitment better than lineworkers.

This month, as we celebrate these remarkable individuals who ensure reliable power, let’s recognize their unwavering dedication to the local communities they serve.

The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember those who make it possible – lineworkers, who are wired for service and dedicated to illuminating life.

COOPERATIVE
CONNECTIONSNORTHERN
ELECTRIC

(USPS 396-040)

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Northern Electric Cooperative Connections is the monthly publication for the members of Northern Electric Cooperative, PO Box 457, Bath, SD 57427. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. The purpose of Northern Electric Cooperative Connections is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on electric cooperative matters and better rural living.

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FEBRUARY BOARD
REPORT

Northern Electric Cooperative's regular board meeting was held February 21, 2025, at the headquarters in Bath with all directors present. As the first order of business, the board approved the January 24, 2025, minutes, and expenditures. The board then reviewed and accepted monthly reports by management.

East River Director Kirk Schaunaman reported on actions taken by the East River Board at its February 6, 2025, meeting. South Dakota Rural Electric Association Director Nolan Wipf reported that the next SDREA board meeting will be held March 27-28, 2025. Directors Kirk Schaunaman, Scott Sperry, Nolan Wipf, General Manager Char Hager and Member Services Manager Russ Ulmer reported on the East River Energize Forum, which was held February 6-7, 2025 in Sioux Falls. Director Todd Hettich reported on the RESCO board meeting which was held on February 8-9, 2025. Hettich also reported on recent building committee activities.

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Char Hager's report to the board included the following items:

- Report on Rural Electric Development (REED) Board Meeting held on February 4, 2025.
- Report on the East River MAC Meeting held on February 4, 2025.
- Report on the employee meeting held on February 3, 2025.
- Report on the East River Energize Forum held on February 5-6, 2025
- Staff provided written reports for their respective departments.

BOARD REPORT

The board considered and/or acted upon the following:

- Approved the date and time of the next regular board meeting for 12:00 P.M. on Friday, March 28, 2025.
- Approved Work Order Inventory #25-01 for \$352,653.38 to be submitted to Rural Utilities Service (RUS) for reimbursement from loan funds for electric plant construction already completed.
- Approved a final version of a bylaw change to be brought to a vote of the membership at the 2025 annual meeting.
- Approved rescinding of Policy GP-18.
- Reviewed the current sub-metered air conditioning program.
- Held Executive Session.

Talk to your director or co-op manager with questions on any of these matters.

FINANCIAL REPORT

	January-25	January-24
kWh Sales	34,952,134	34,737,656
Electric Revenues	\$3,098,043	\$2,912,246
Total Cost of Service	\$2,997,648	\$2,893,379
Operating Margins.....	\$100,395	\$18,867
Year to Date Margins	\$131,441	\$44,280

RESIDENTIAL AVERAGE MONTHLY USAGE AND BILL

JANUARY 2025.....	3,587 kWh.....	\$323.99.....	\$0.0903 per kWh
JANUARY 2024.....	3,549 kWh.....	\$303.53.....	\$0.0855 per kWh

Wholesale power cost, taxes, interest, and depreciation account for 86.2% of NEC's total cost of service.

Distracted Driving

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment or navigation system – anything that takes your attention away from the task of safe driving.

Texting is the most alarming distraction. Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for five seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

You cannot drive safely unless the task of driving has your full attention. Any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and increases your risk of crashing.

Consequences

Using a cell phone while driving creates enormous potential for deaths and injuries on U.S. roads. In 2022, 3,308 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers.

Get Involved

We can all play a part in the fight to save lives by ending distracted driving.



Teens

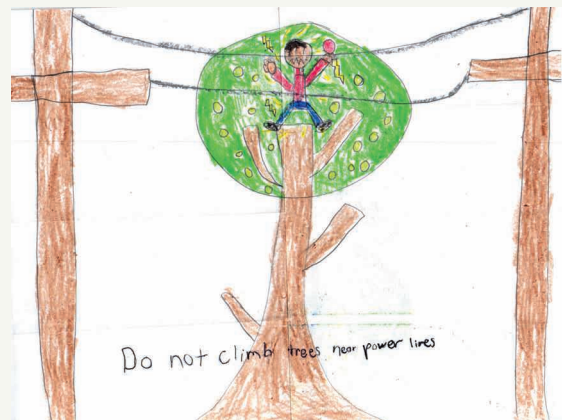
Teens can be the best messengers with their peers, so we encourage them to speak up when they see a friend driving while distracted, to have their friends sign a pledge to never drive distracted, to become involved in their local Students Against Destructive Decisions chapter, and to share messages on social media that remind their friends, family and neighbors not to make the deadly choice to drive distracted.

Parents

Parents first must lead by example – by never driving distracted – as well as have a talk with their young driver about distraction and all of the responsibilities that come with driving. Have everyone in the family sign the pledge to commit to distraction-free driving. Remind your teen driver that in states with graduated driver licensing (GDL), a violation of distracted-driving laws could mean a delayed or suspended license.

Educators and Employers

Educators and employers can play a part, too. Spread the word at your school or workplace about the dangers of distracted driving. Ask your students to commit to distraction-free driving or set a company policy on distracted driving.



"Do not climb trees near power lines."

Naomi Krcil, Age 7

Naomi cautions readers about the dangers of climbing trees near power lines. Thank you for your picture, Naomi! Naomi's parents are Andrew and Andrea Krcil, members of Charles Mix Electric Association.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Let's Have BRUNCH

EASY BREAKFAST MUFFIN

Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup granulated sugar
2 tsps. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
2 eggs (beaten)
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup milk

Method

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Line a 12 cup muffin tin with paper liners or spray each cup with cooking spray. In a mixing bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder and salt.

Add in eggs, oil and milk and mix only until combined, don't beat or over mix or they will be dry! Fold in 1/2 cup mix-ins if desired.

Scoop into prepared muffin tin and bake for 15 to 18 minutes or just until golden and a toothpick comes clean. Serve with butter and jam.

Lyon-Lincoln Electric Member

UMM BRUNCH

Ingredients:

Scallops
English Muffin
Eggs

Method

Soak scallops in cold water in fridge for two hours, pat dry, sauté in butter and garlic until opaque (approx. 4 min). Put on toasted English muffin. Cook poached eggs in 10-inch skillet with 1 tbsp. vinegar (3-5 mins.) Remove with slotted spoon and drain on paper towel. Add to the scallops and top with Hollandaise Sauce.

Hollandaise Sauce:

Cut 1/2 stick butter into thirds. In double boiler, combine 1 piece of butter and 3 egg yolks, 1 tbsp. lemon juice and 1 tbsp. water. Place it over boiling water and cook while whisking rapidly. Add remaining butter one at a time, continue to cook. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Kari Reder
Northern Electric Member

SAUSAGE AND EGG TACOS

Ingredients:

4 oz. breakfast sausage, casings removed
1 tbsp. perfect pinch roasted garlic bell pepper seasoning
6 eggs
2 tbsps. milk
1 tbsp. butter
6 small flour tortillas, warmed
1/4 cup shredded Mexican cheese blend
1 med. ripe avocado, peeled, pitted and sliced

Method

Heat medium skillet on medium-high heat. Add sausage and Seasoning; cook and stir until sausage is browned and crumbled. Remove sausage from pan; keep warm. Drain fat from pan.

Beat eggs and milk in medium bowl with wire whisk. Melt butter in same skillet on medium heat. Add egg mixture; cook and stir until eggs are firm.

For each taco, place one tortilla on plate. Top with eggs, sausage, cheese and avocado. Sprinkle with additional seasoning, if desired.

McCormick.com

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2025. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Uncover Your Energy's Roots!



South Dakota Rural Electric – – – – – YOUTH EXCURSION – – – – – July 21-23, 2025



All area high school freshmen, sophomores and juniors whose parents or guardians are members of Northern Electric are eligible to apply.

- *Learn where South Dakota's electricity comes from!*
- *Tour the Great Plains Synfuel Plant, Freedom Coal Mine and Antelope Valley Station Power Plant!*

Northern Electric will provide transportation, lodging, meals, entertainment and sightseeing events. Students are required to supply their own personal/shopping money.



For More Information Contact:

Amy Golden
agolden@northernelectric.coop
605-225-0310

For more information please visit: <https://northernelectric.coop/youthexcursion>

Application Deadline: June 2, 2025



Northern Electric Cooperative Senior Billing Specialist Brittany Holcomb, right, presents Groton Area High School Senior Gretchen Dinger, left, with a \$250 check for being named the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week.

SCHOLAR OF THE WEEK

Groton Area High School Senior Gretchen Dinger Named Scholar of the Week on Feb. 11

Brittany Holcomb

bholcomb@northernelectric.coop

Groton Area High School Senior Gretchen Dinger is a highly active and outgoing student in her school and non-school based activities.

"Gretchen is the cream of the crop. A sweet person and academically, very gifted," said Groton science teacher Kristen Gonsoir. "I know Gretchen is going to find success wherever she goes," said Kristen

Gretchen is the class president

and has a 4.11 GPA. She is actively involved in music and other activities at her school.

She received honors and awards in High School All State Band (Sophomore and Junior year), National Honors Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, and lettering in Varsity Soccer.

Two organizations Gretchen participates in are Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and Future Health Professionals (HOSA).

When she is not busy with school

activities, she volunteers at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Groton. In 2025, she won second place at the South Dakota Snow Queen Festival.

Gretchen has a passion for science and plans to attend the University of Texas in Dallas in the fall.

"I want to study pre-med and eventually, go to medical school to become a doctor. I really like cardiology, but there are so many options I could go into. I also like neurology. I like the study of the brain," said Gretchen.

She was featured on Dakota News Now on February 11 for being named the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week. She received a \$250 award from Northern Electric Cooperative as a recognition for her achievements.

Gretchen along with Bryson (who was a Scholar of the Week winner in November) will be eligible for a \$1,000 or \$500 scholarship this spring at the Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Year banquet.

FROM CELEBRATION TO INSPIRATION

Megawatt welcomes members to the football tailgate party hosted by West River Electric.
Photo by Amanda Haugen

How Electric Co-ops Are Powering the Next Generation

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

April marks Lineman Appreciation Month, the perfect time to spotlight the essential role that electric cooperative employees play in their communities. In line with their commitment to education and community involvement, electric cooperatives are celebrating lineworkers through youth engagement initiatives, and it all stems from one of the electric cooperatives' seven cooperative principles: concern for community. For years, programs such as Cooperatives in the Classroom have provided schoolchildren with innovative, hands-on learning opportunities, demonstrating the critical work electric cooperatives perform in their communities.

Whether it's engaging youth through a Neon Leon safety demonstration or taking students to explore Basin Electric's energy infrastructure during the SDREA Youth Excursion, electric cooperatives across the state are constantly finding new and exciting ways to engage the youth within their communities and inspire the next generation. Below are two new avenues for spurring youth engagement in cooperatives across the state:

Megawatt Mascot

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's Megawatt, Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative's newest lineman mascot. This summer, select electric cooperatives in western South Dakota are suiting up to introduce Megawatt – a friendly-faced lineman adorned with a hard hat, safety gloves and

bright red cape – to their members.

"The goal is to get younger kids to start thinking about linemen in a certain way – almost larger than life and the backbone of the electric cooperative," said Rushmore Electric Chief Marketing Officer Matt Brunner. "The hope is that it translates into them considering the lineman profession when they get older."

Megawatt has already made his debut at several member appreciation events, bringing high-energy fun to parades and tailgates as a true champion of the cooperative spirit. So far, Brunner said the mascot has left a big impression.

"The kids and adults have loved it, and the interactions have been great," Brunner said. "If nothing else, it's unique. People are constantly asking, 'Who is that?' The costume does a great job of starting the conversation: what is a lineman, and what do they do?"

Beyond lineworkers, cooperatives offer a diverse range of career paths.

From engineers to accountants, the cooperative world is full of exciting roles that include opportunities in communications, where professionals share the cooperative's achievements and member services, where employees work directly with the community to meet their needs.

Brunner said he expects the idea to continue gaining momentum over the coming months with new avenues of appreciation for linemen and a better understanding of the day in the life of a lineman, as well as other exciting careers in the electric cooperative industry.

STEM Gains Steam

Jennifer Gross, education and outreach coordinator at East River Electric Power Cooperative, has inspired classrooms for years with a variety of engaging demonstrations, covering everything from science to safety. Last year, Gross introduced a new activity to spark curiosity while incorporating STEM – an approach to education that integrates science, technology, engineering and mathematics into learning. The result led to a crafting activity where kids use simple materials to fashion their own wind turbine.

"We are always trying to come up with new ideas for students," Gross said. "Incorporating STEM into this project seemed like a natural fit because both teachers and students are very receptive to it."

The idea is straightforward. Students construct a small-scale turbine from wooden dowels, fins, and a motor capable of generating power. Once completed, they connect their tiny turbine to a multimeter, which measures the energy generated. Instead of relying on natural wind, students use a fan to simulate a windy day. By altering their model turbines, students can find the optimal design for the best output of energy. And just like that, students can step into the role of engineers.



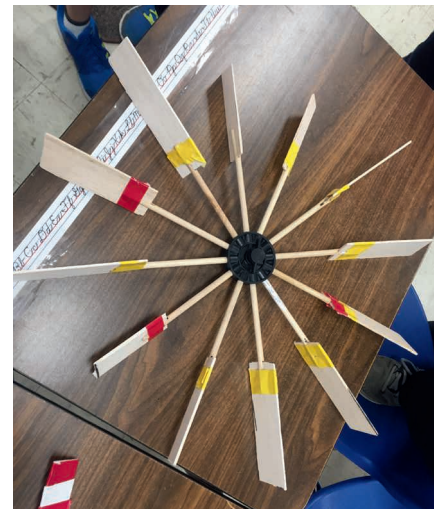
Megawatt is joined by U.S. Air Force personnel enjoying the Annual Base Picnic.
Photo by Amanda Haugen

Gross said the students and the project have a lot in common. Once the building begins, the students' minds begin to whirl – just like a turbine. The activity prompts question after question: Why does the wind blow? How does a wind turbine work? How does the shape and weight of the blade influence the experiment?

"The students enjoy being engineers for this project," Gross said. "They enjoy having the freedom to choose their materials and design. There's no right or wrong way to do it, and they enjoy that. I mention to the students that careers in wind energy are in high demand and some are 4-year degrees and others are fewer years, but the push for renewable energy sources is growing and our state produces plenty of wind."

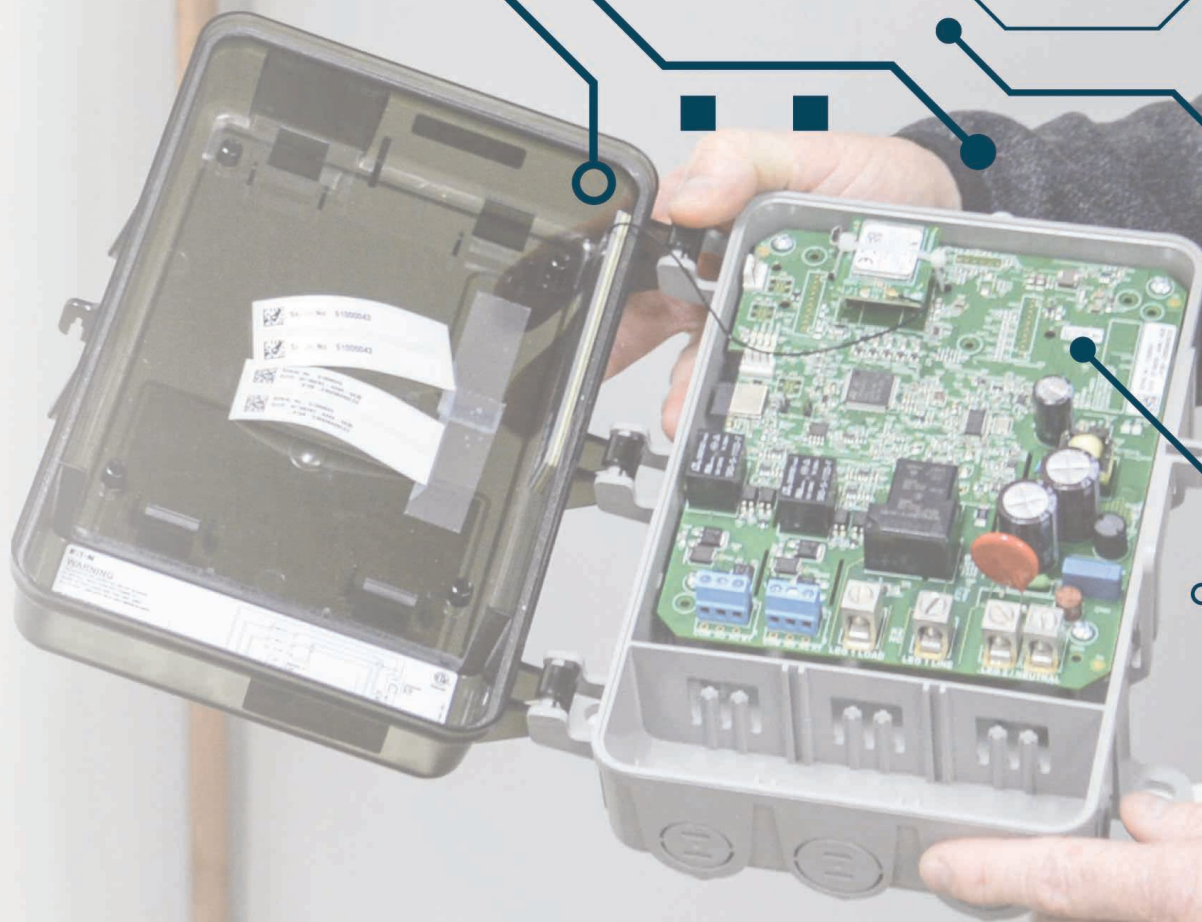
Whether it's through a hands-on activity or an engaging mascot, cooperatives aim to not only educate but inspire, ensuring that today's students can become tomorrow's linemen, engineers, communicators or member service representatives. By

sparking curiosity and introducing young people to the world of cooperatives early on, they're opening the door to careers that keep communities powered and connected.



This is just one example of how students create wind turbines using materials such as balsa wood, foam, card stock, cardboard and paper cups.

Photo by Jennifer Gross



LOAD MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Northern Electric is stepping into the future with the installation of updated load management devices in homes and businesses. The current device used to manage energy usage on your water heater or air conditioner has become outdated and will no longer be supported by the manufacturers.

This gives us the opportunity to update our technology so we can move into the next generation of load management. This implementation will bring numerous benefits to member-owners like you across the cooperative by ensuring we are efficiently utilizing our resources during times of peak electricity usage. By managing energy wisely through load management, we are able to reduce wholesale power purchases, saving

money and resources.

As part of the device changeout, our technicians will need to visit your home/location to install the new load management device. We understand that this may cause some inconvenience, but rest assured, we will work with you to set up a time that works best for you and ensure professional measures are taken during the installation process. We will be reaching out via phone call to set up a time.

We appreciate your cooperation as we move into the next generation of load management and move toward greater energy efficiency and cost savings.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please feel free to contact us at 605-225-0310.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q: What is load management and why do we do it?

A: Load management is one method our electric cooperative uses to ensure we are efficiently utilizing our resources for electricity. It refers to the control of various customer electric loads during times of peak usage on the electric system. By managing loads so that they are not all on at the same time, we are able to reduce wholesale power purchases, thus saving money and resources. At most installations such as a typical water heater, there is a box, called a load control device, mounted near the water heater or electrical panel. This device receives commands from the cooperative telling it to turn on or turn off power to the water heater.

2. Q: Why is the co-op implementing the new devices?

A: We have been operating on the same technology since the mid-1980s and this equipment is at its end-of-life.

3. Q: How is the new device different from my old one?

A: The existing load control devices use signals on the power lines and electric service cables to communicate to the devices. The newer devices utilize wireless technology such as cellular or radio frequency (RF) to communicate with the load control devices.

4. Q: What does the device do?

A: It performs similar functions as the existing load control devices. These devices receive commands to allow us to turn loads, such as water heaters, on and off to help reduce peak demands and costs. The new devices also have the ability to let us know if they are not working properly.

5. Q: What are the benefits of the new devices?

A: It allows the cooperative to continue to perform load control to save the members money. The new devices also allow the cooperative to verify everything is operating properly and to be more proactive in identifying and resolving issues.

6. Q: Do I have to have the new device?

A: A new device will be necessary to continue to participate in the load management programs and to continue to receive any applicable rebates and incentives.

7. Q: Will there be a cost to me?

A: There is no cost to the member-consumer for the installation of the new devices.

8. Q: I don't want the technology, can I refuse it?

A: All the existing devices need to be changed because the equipment and technology has reached the end of its useful life and will stop working. If a member chooses not to have a new device installed, they will no longer be eligible to participate in the load management programs and any related benefits.

9. Q: What safety standards do the devices meet?

A: The new devices comply with Part 15 of the FCC Rules as a Class B device, see fcc.gov for more details.

10. Q: How will this affect my billing rates?

A: There will be no changes to billing or rates related to changing out the devices. However, if a member chooses not to allow the new device to be installed, they will no longer receive any benefits, and this will be reflected in the monthly billing statements.

11. Q: Will my electricity work while the device is being changed out?

A: Yes, most installations can be changed out without the need for an outage or service interruption. The technician may need to briefly disconnect power to the specific load, such as the water heater, while performing the needed wiring changes.

12. Q: How long will the installation process take?

A: Typical installations should take less than 1 hour.

13. Q: Who will see the data received and how will it be used?

A: The cooperative will communicate with the device to tell it to either turn on or off the load. The cooperative will also get a limited amount of information back from the device to confirm it is functioning properly. This does not contain any personal or identifiable information.

14. Q: Who/when will someone be contacting me from the co-op?

A: You will be contacted by a cooperative employee to discuss your device changeout. Please call us directly if you have any questions.



DIGGING SAFELY

**Call 811 Before You Dig
Every Dig. Every Time.**

Jocelyn Johnson

jocelyn.johnson@sdrea.coop

Every year, underground utility lines are damaged by homeowners and contractors who dig without calling 811. This single call is a crucial step in any project. Striking a water, gas or power line can cause serious injuries, costly repairs and service outages for an entire neighborhood. Whether you're beginning construction on a major project or are simply planting a tree, calling 811 before you dig is a free and simple solution to what could potentially be considerable damage.


What is 811?

The South Dakota One-Call System, or 811, is a mandatory statewide

one-call notification system that was established by South Dakota Statute in 1993. 811 is now recognized as the national "Call Before You Dig" number in the U.S., designed to safeguard people and protect underground utilities. It's a free service that coordinates with your utility providers to help locate and mark underground lines.





Codi Gregg, executive director for South Dakota 811, said, "The main purpose of the program is to avoid digging into any utility and potentially causing a loss of life, loss of property, or any infrastructure buried in the ground."

"We are fully funded by the utilities who want to protect the services they provide," Gregg continued. "It is



GET TO KNOW THE COLOR CODE

Below are The American Public Works Association (APWA)
Uniform Color Codes for temporary marking of underground utilities.

 Proposed Excavation	 Electric
 Water	 Communication / CATV
 Reclaimed Water, Irrigation, Slurry	 Temporary Survey Marking
 Gas, Oil, Steam	 Sewer / Storm Drain

South Dakota state law that you contact 811 two business days before you dig.”

South Dakota has underground utility lines for electricity, gas, water, sewage and telecommunications. Inadvertently hitting one of these lines could cause power outages, property damage, water contamination, gas leaks, legal liabilities and injury.

Gregg explained that when an excavator makes the 811 call before they dig, utilities receive the locate and have 48 hours to mark all lines in the designated area with color-coded flags or paint.

“If you happen to dig into a utility or find one that was not located while excavating, you have to report that to 811. If you happen to dig into a gas line or anything toxic, you must call 911 first, then 811.”

How It Works

Contractors, homeowners, ranchers and farmers can easily make a request for underground utility lines to be marked by

following these steps before every project.

1. Call 811 or submit an online request at least 48 hours prior to your project.
 - Information can be found online at www.sdonecall.com.
2. Wait for utility markings.
 - Utility companies will send professionals to mark buried lines using color-coded paint or flags.
3. Get locates on secondary or privately-owned lines if needed.
4. Check markings.
 - Confirm all utility companies listed on your ticket have responded to the request after the two-business days have passed.
5. Dig safely.

Real-Life Examples of Hitting Underground Utility Lines

Contractor Hits Unmarked Secondary Line

Tom Lundberg, member services manager from H-D Electric Cooperative in Clear Lake, S.D., gives the following account of a contact made to a secondary line:

“Normal situations start out like this – South Dakota 811 calls are made from an excavator or member (persons doing the work), and flags and paint go on the ground marking the underground services. This is a normal occurrence. However, some digs are more complicated, and there may be what we call secondary wires, pipes, sewer lines, etc. located in the dig area as well. The words primary and secondary are confusing to some people and they assume that all is well after the 811 call is made. Primary lines are owned and operated by the utility. Secondary lines are member-owned lines that are not marked by any utility. They must be marked by the member-owner of the property.

Unfortunately, we have had many of these lines hit during a dig, which makes it an emergency service call. One example is when we had a 600-amp service for a member that was damaged by a contractor. The call came in to us, and we responded to the site. We realized it could have been a very dangerous situation if the contractor would have entered the dig. Luckily, they guarded the hole until we arrived. The underground wires were extremely damaged, and the contact did not take out the transformer fuse or any kind of overcurrent protection. When I arrived, there was water in the hole, and I could hear the muddy water boiling. At that time, I assumed it was still energized. The first thing I did was turn the power off and assess the extent of the damage. The mud and water were so hot that I had to wait for a while for it to cool off. Repairs were made and everything was put back together. I double checked my work, then turned the power back on. This happened because secondary locates were not completed – resulting

in a three-hour delay for the business and a costly repair.

We have had many of these calls over the years, and we want to communicate that anyone digging for a project must ensure all the dig area is marked for primary and secondary functions (wire, pipe, gas, telephone, sewer).

Long story short, the impact of not marking all the dig area can cost you time, loss of production, money and even worse – injury or death.”

Out-of-State Contractor Hits Underground Power Line

Mike Stadler, manager of electric operations from Grand Electric Cooperative in Bison, S.D., gives the following account of a contact made by company digging gravel:

“We had a dig-in a couple of years ago at a gravel pit. The county contracted a crushing company out of state to mine more gravel from an existing pit they had rights to. The crushing company started by digging test holes with a bulldozer. They would take the bulldozer and dig a hole about eight feet deep, just one dozer width wide, to see how good the gravel was before they committed to mining the whole area. We had underground cable around the pit. When they were exploring new areas to mine, they dug right through our cable and didn’t know it (keep in mind the test holes are 8 feet deep, and our cable is four feet deep). They dug the hole, went in and looked at the gravel, decided it wasn’t worth it, and covered the hole back up. Meanwhile, we had an outage.

When our crew began searching for the cause of the outage, they discovered the fresh dirt which was moved and had to dig it back up to fix it. When I asked the contractor why he didn’t call a locate, he stated the county superintendent said he didn’t have to because there was nothing there. They were very reluctant to pay the bill and thought the county should be liable. When I explained to them it was the law that all contractors are required to call 811, and it didn’t matter what the county told them, they paid the bill. We have since educated the county on 811 laws.”

PETITIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTOR SEATS

Nominating Petitions Due By May 2

During Northern Electric Cooperative's 2025 Annual Meeting (Monday, June 16, 2025) members will elect Directors for Districts 2, 5, and 9.

Incumbent directors Todd Hettich, Mina (Dist. 2), Scott Sperry, Bath (Dist. 5), and Nolan Wipf, Hitchcock (Dist. 9) are all eligible to run again and are up for re-election.

Northern Electric Cooperative uses a petition process to nominate directors. A petition must be circulated for each candidate. Candidates must be cooperative members and reside in the district they wish to represent. A designated representative of an entity may seek election. The representative must reside within the district in which they would represent. Each petition must be signed by at least ten (10) cooperative members residing in that candidate's specific district.

Only one party of a joint membership may sign a petition; but not both.

Petitions are available at the Northern Electric offices in Bath. Director's petitions must be submitted not more than one hundred-twenty (120) nor less than forty-five (45) days before the Annual Meeting to have names placed on the official ballot and the Notice of the Meeting.

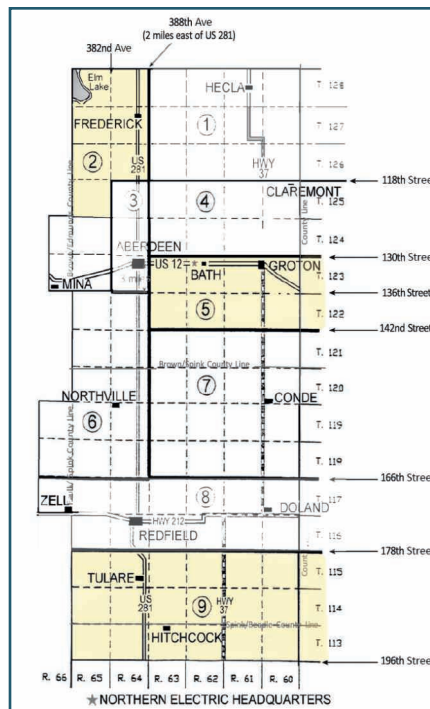
Petitions must be filed at a Northern Electric Cooperative office by close of business (4:30 p.m.) Friday, May 2, 2025. No petitions filed after May 2, 2025, shall

be considered valid.

Nominations are not permitted from the floor during the meeting.

Members may only sign ONE nominating petition for a director candidate from their district of record.

For a complete copy of the Northern Electric Cooperative Bylaws contact Northern Electric at 605-225-0310 or stop by the Bath office. The bylaws are also available online at www.northernelectric.coop/cooperative-bylaws.



NORTHERN ELECTRIC SEEKS TWO TEMPORARY APPRENTICE LINEWORKERS

Northern Electric Cooperative is accepting applications for two temporary apprentice lineworkers.

Temporary lineworkers will assist line crews with construction and maintenance of distribution lines. This is a seasonal position and applicants must have a commercial driver's license (CDL).

Applications are available online at <https://www.northernelectric.coop/employment> or by calling 1-800-529-0310.

Please submit an application and resume by mail, or e-mail, to:

Jerry Weber
Operations Manager
Northern Electric Cooperative
PO Box 457 Bath, SD 57427.
jweber@northernelectric.coop.

Applications will be accepted until positions are filled.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



DIRECTOR NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCESS

2025 Annual Meeting Scheduled for Monday, June 16

Director Qualifications

Northern Electric Cooperative Bylaws Article IV Section 4

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director who:

- a. Is an employee of the Cooperative.
- b. Is not a member and bona fide resident of the service area served by the Cooperative located within the particular District provided that if the member is an entity other than a natural person then such person must be the Designated Representative of the entity, and such Designated Representative must reside within the district they represent.
- c. Is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative.
- d. Has been previously removed as a director in accordance with the procedures provided for removal in these Bylaws.
- e. Has failed to attend at least 2/3 of all regular board meetings during any consecutive twelve (12) month period.
- f. Has been employed by the Cooperative in the past five (5) years.
- g. Has pled guilty or has been convicted of: a felony, any crime involving dishonesty, or any crime involving moral turpitude.
- h. Does not have the capacity to enter into legally binding contracts.

NORTHERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE BYLAWS ARTICLE IV SECTION 6

Section 6. Nomination of Directors. Any ten (10) or more members including a Designated Representative of an entity, in such District may file or sign a nominating petition, in the form provided by the Cooperative, with the Secretary placing in nomination any qualified member from such District. Each signatory shall place the date of signing and the member's address on said petition. No member may sign a petition to nominate more than one candidate, and to do so shall invalidate the member's signature on the petition signed on the latest date.

This procedure shall be followed in each director district in which the director term shall expire. Upon receipt of such petition and having found the same to be in order, the Secretary shall post such nomination in the principal office of the Cooperative. Candidates so nominated shall be identified in the Notice of the Meeting and shall also be named on the official ballot. Such Petition for Nomination shall be filed with the Cooperative not more than one hundred-twenty (120) nor less than forty-five (45) days before the

membership meeting. The order in which the nominees shall appear on the printed ballot shall be determined by lot under the supervision of the Secretary. If any nominee should refuse to become a candidate or is not qualified, in accordance with the requirements of these Bylaws, the Secretary of the Cooperative is authorized and directed to remove the name or names from the list of posted nominees and/or from the ballot.

The Secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the notice of the annual meeting, or separately, but at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of directors to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated. No nominations shall be permitted from the floor. Each member of the Cooperative present at the meeting shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from their specific district from which a director is to be elected. Upon establishment of a quorum the annual member meeting shall be deemed convened. Voting may occur in accordance with the procedure established by the Board. The candidate from each district receiving the highest number of votes at the meeting shall be considered elected as a director.



APRIL 11-12
Forks, Corks & Kegs
Food, Wine & Beer Festival
 Deadwood, SD
 605-578-1876

*Photo courtesy of
 Travel South Dakota*

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

APRIL 3
Viva Las Vegas
McCrossan Banquet Auction
 5:30 p.m.
 Sioux Falls Arena
 Tables Available
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-339-1203

APRIL 3
Bachelors of Broadway:
Gentlemen of the Theatre
 Aberdeen Community Concert Association
 7 p.m.
 NSU Johnson Fine Arts Center
aberdeencommunityconcerts.org

APRIL 4
Mitchell Technical College
2025 Alumni Gathering
Cornhole Tournament
 5 p.m. Social
 6:30 p.m. Tournament
 The World's Only Corn Palace
 Mitchell, SD
 605-995-7342

APRIL 4-5
Annual Schmeckfest
 German Heritage Celebration
 748 S Main St.
 Freeman, SD

APRIL 4-6, 11-13
Women Playing Hamlet
 April 4-5, 11-12: 7:30 p.m.
 April 6, 13: 2:30 p.m.
 Mighty Corson Art Players
 Corson, SD
www.mightycorson.com

APRIL 5
Dueling Duo Baseball/
Softball Fundraiser
 6-11:30 p.m.
 American Legion Post #39
 Groton, SD

APRIL 6
Pancake Sunday Historical
Society Fundraiser
 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Community Center
 Groton, SD

APRIL 11-12
Junkin' Market Days Spring
Market
 Fri. 4-7 p.m.
 Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds
 Sioux Falls, SD
www.junkinmarketdays.com

APRIL 12
Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt
 10 a.m.
 City Park
 Groton, SD

APRIL 24-26
HuntSAFE Course
 Davison County Fairgrounds &
 Mitchell Trap Club
 Mitchell, SD
gfp.sd.gov/hunter-education

MAY 2-3
Spring Square Dance Festival
 Fri. 7:30-10:30 p.m.
 Sat. 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
 Faith Lutheran Church
 Sioux Falls, SD
 Call for events & times
 605-360-2524

MAY 3
Lion's Club Spring Citywide
Rummage Sale
 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Groton, SD

MAY 3-4
Prairie Village Events
 Sat. Consignment Auction
 Sun. Season Opening
 Madison, SD
www.prairievillage.org

MAY 3
West River Pheasants
Forever Banquet
 5 p.m. Central Time
 Draper Auditorium
 Draper, SD
 605-516-0143

MAY 6-7
Energize! Exploring Innovative
Rural Communities Conference
 Hosted by SDSU Extension
 Community Vitality
 Platte, SD
 605-626-2870

MAY 31
Hub City Auto Parts
Swap Meet & Car Show
 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Brown County Fairgrounds
 Aberdeen, SD

**Note: Please make sure
 to call ahead to verify the
 event is still being held.**