



# Volts & Jolts

Published monthly for the members of  
**RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

NOVEMBER 2016

SERVING THE FOUR-COUNTY AREA OF MARSHALL, PENNINGTON, RED LAKE AND POLK  
and a portion of the lands of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa

## Operation Round Up® grants total \$12,500

The Red Lake Electric Trust board met recently and awarded 18 grants to area nonprofit and community organizations that totaled \$12,500. Since its inception in 1993, 746 Operation Round Up grants totaling \$489,000 have been gifted to area community organizations. The Red Lake Electric Trust receives money for grants from the Operation Round Up program administered by the Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Today, 94 percent of Red Lake Electric's members voluntarily "round up" their monthly bill for the Operation Round Up program.

*The following three organizations were awarded RoundUp funds to help the disadvantaged.*

- Violence Intervention Project of Thief River Falls: \$500 for its Umbrella Tree program that provides supervised child visitations.
- TRF Area Food Shelf: \$1,000 to help purchase food for those in need.
- Red Lake County Victim Services: \$500 to help with (3715003.03 Kevin Barth) expenses for victims of a crime.

*Six area emergency service providers were awarded grants.*

- Plummer Volunteer Fire Department: \$1,000 to help purchase backup cameras for larger truck and gas monitor.
- Oklee Volunteer Ambulance Service: \$1,000 to help purchase a computer for use in ambulance.
- Oklee Fire Department: \$1,000 to help purchase a replacement pump for grass fires.
- Goodridge Fire and Rescue: \$1,000 to help repair the roof at fire hall.
- St. Hilaire Fire & Rescue Department: \$1,000 to help purchase a set of structural firefighter gear (PPE).
- Marshall County Mounted Posse: \$500 to help purchase a thermal camera.



NCH Trails to Treatment, was pleased to receive a \$1,000 grant from Red Lake Electric's Operation Round Up program. Trails to Treatment helps defray out-of-pocket expenses for those in cancer treatment. Stacy Bierman, co-chair of Trails to Treatment (right) accepts the grant from Bonnie Christians (left), exofficio director, Red Lake Electric Trust.



*One organization for aiding the general public.*

- NCH Trails to Treatment: \$1,000 to help defray out-of-pocket expenses for those in cancer treatment.

*Monies to benefit youth were awarded to these five organizations.*

- Early Childhood Family Education (Red Lake County): \$500 to help fund a field trip for parents and preschool-aged children.
- Marshall County Social Services: \$500 to support Christmas sharing tree and food basket projects.
- Red Lake County Holiday Gift program (Salvation Army): \$500 to purchase Christmas gifts for its annual holiday program.
- Little Brother/Little Sister program (TRF): \$500 to help fund youth mentoring programs and activities.

- Silverton 4-H Club: \$500 to help purchase supplies to improve its townhall building.

*Two organizations that provide help and service to area seniors received the following grants.*

- Middle River-Thief Lake Living-at-Home/Block Nurse program: \$500 to help with medical transportation reimbursement for volunteers.
- Tri-Community Living at Home/Block Nurse program: \$500 to offer health promotion/social activities for seniors.

*One organization for historical merit was granted an award.*

- Goodridge Area Historical Society, Inc.: \$500 to help purchase and install new siding on the Depot.

The RLE Trust Board of Directors determines grants two times per year, in March and September. Serving on the board are Patty Mickelson - president, Oklee; Tishara Melcher - vice president, Middle River; and Julie Stennes - secretary/treasurer, Thief River Falls; Exofficio directors are Bonnie Christians of Crookston and Roger Johanneck of Red Lake Falls, representing Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Grant applications are available at the Red Lake Electric Cooperative office or by visiting its website at [www.redlakeelectric.com](http://www.redlakeelectric.com). The next deadline for Operation Round Up grant applications is March 9, 2017.

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## OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday  
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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## AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE CALLS 218-253-2200

Website: [www.redlakeelectric.com](http://www.redlakeelectric.com)  
Email: [redlake@minnkota.com](mailto:redlake@minnkota.com)

**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG  
1-800-252-1166 or 811**

## MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

*Pennington and Marshall Counties:*

**Scott Stenvik – 218-689-5406**

*Red Lake and Polk Counties:*

**Bryan Holmes – 218-686-1413**

Any time you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, Minnesota state law requires a state wiring inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. Please visit [www.dli.mn.gov](http://www.dli.mn.gov) for more information. The inspectors can be reached week-day mornings between 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*It is the mission of Red Lake Electric Cooperative to enhance the quality of life for people of our service area by safely and consistently providing quality electric service and other valued services while holding our employees, our community and our environment in high regard.*



# Manager's Comments

by Roger Johanneck



## Safety is always in season

By the time this issue of the *Volts & Jolts* reaches your mailbox, the Minnesota deer rifle season will have come and gone. I have had the good fortune to take up the sport the same year I completed the Minnesota firearms safety course at the age of 12. Along with my safety instructor, I am grateful for the guidance my dad and two older brothers gave me when it came to hunting and carrying a rifle. My safety awareness is what it is today because of their instruction and example. Of course, those hunting and safety lessons have been passed down by me to my three sons who are now grown men and who I share the privilege of hunting with today. It is hard to imagine any responsible parent or guardian handing over a gun of any sort to a 12-year-old without the proper training; we just don't do that sort of thing.

When it comes to safety instruction to our children, it is obviously more than just hunting. Safe electricity, like safe hunting, requires instruction and guidance for our children.

We all know electricity plays a major role in our everyday lives, and it is a powerful resource that should be respected. Unfortunately, our children often do not understand the dangers of electricity. At Red Lake Electric Cooperative (RLEC), we encourage you to share electrical safety tips and lessons with your little ones as often as possible. We also understand their attention spans run short, so here are a few creative ways to get them involved.

Depending on the age of your child, consider designating an "electronics deputy." The deputy should be responsible for pointing out electronics in your home

that are not in use and keeping appliances safe from liquids. Reward your deputy for pointing out overloaded outlets or other potentially dangerous situations.

Emphasize the importance of fire prevention with your children, and create a family fire drill plan as an extra precaution. Incentivize your children by rewarding those who followed the plan and made it safely out of the home.

While it is fun and engaging to turn safety into a game, it is important to ensure your children understand the risks they are facing if they do not practice electrical safety.

One of the most important safety tips you can give your kids is to avoid any downed power lines. In fact, it is best to avoid power lines, transformers and substations in general. A downed power line can still be energized, and it can also energize other objects, including fences and trees. Make sure your kids understand the potential dangers of coming in contact with a downed power line or low-hanging wire. And, if they encounter a downed power line, ask them to tell you or another adult to call RLEC.

Here are a few other safety tips you can share with your kids:

- Never put metal objects (3729037.02 Mitchell Hams) in outlets or appliances.
- Do not overcrowd electrical outlets.
- Never mix water and electricity.

No matter how you choose to get your kids interested in staying safe around electricity, RLEC is here to help. To learn more about electrical safety, visit [www.redlakeelectric.com](http://www.redlakeelectric.com).

## A Time to Give Thanks

*As we gather with our families and friends for Thanksgiving, it is fitting we reflect on the many blessings for which we can be thankful. We all experience misfortunes, but they are few compared with the blessings bestowed on us.*

*May you have an enjoyable  
Thanksgiving!*

*From your friends at  
Red Lake Electric Cooperative*



## Closed Thanksgiving Day

Red Lake Electric Cooperative will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24, for Thanksgiving. In case of an electrical outage or emergency, call the after-hours phone number, 218-253-2200.



## Report from the Office

by Shirley Bregier

### Electric heat sales tax exemption

This is the time of year we all think about tuning up and using our heating system. I would like to remind you that residential heat usage is exempt from Minnesota sales tax during the months of November through April. If your primary source of residential heat is electric heat not controlled by an off-peak system, Red Lake Electric needs to have a sales tax exemption form on file. If we have one from you on file, you do not need to send us another; however, if you haven't given us a sales tax exemption form, please send us one. You will find an exemption form in this issue of *Volts & Jolts*, on our website or give us a call and we will send you one. If you have an off-peak heating system, this is already taken care of for you.

### Off-peak meters

Most meters used to report off-peak heat usage sit idle all summer. When the electric heat is turned back on, some of the automated meter reading devices (Turtles) don't always start reporting kWh

usage. We try to detect these. However, if you are using your off-peak heating system, we ask that you look at your electric bill to be sure you are getting the discounted rate for off-peak usage. Another way to be sure your usage is being registered (2232001.19 Brock Jenkins) is to read your meter on the last day of the month, jot it down and when your electric bill arrives, compare it to the reading on your bill. Remember, it isn't going to be exact but should be in the ballpark.

### Holiday wishes

With the holiday season just around the corner, I would like to share a couple of things I am grateful for. I have the freedom to live in a great country that many men and women fought to protect. I am blessed with the opportunity to serve you, RLEC members, and enjoy the friendship and confidence you have shown RLEC. I wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving and may the holiday season be filled with peace, special memories and great joy.

Till next time, stay safe.

## Recipe Corner



Submit your recipes to be published in *Volts & Jolts*. Email to [redlake@minkota.com](mailto:redlake@minkota.com) or mail to: Red Lake Electric Cooperative, PO Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

### Sweet Potato Casserole

#### Mashed Sweet Potatoes:

3 pounds sweet potatoes, peeled and chopped into large chunks  
2 tablespoons unsalted butter  
1/4 cup milk or half and half  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon or pumpkin pie spice  
2 tablespoons brown sugar  
Salt to taste

#### Topping:

4 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened  
1/4 cup brown sugar  
1/4 cup all-purpose flour  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup chopped pecans  
2-3 cups mini marshmallows

Preheat oven to 375°F. Grease a two-quart casserole dish and set aside.

Place the sweet potatoes in a large pot, cover with water and boil until tender (about 7 minutes, depending on the size). Drain and return to the pot. Add butter, milk, cinnamon, brown sugar and salt to the potatoes and mash until smooth. Use a hand mixer, if desired, to make them extra smooth. Taste the potatoes and add additional seasonings, if desired.

Transfer the mashed potatoes to the prepared casserole dish. (430004.01 Richard Nickelson) Place in the oven until heated through (if they're warm, it will only take a few minutes).

While the sweet potatoes are heating, prepare the topping. In a medium bowl, combine butter, brown sugar, flour, cinnamon, salt and pecans. Stir until thoroughly combined.

Remove the sweet potatoes from the oven. Top with half the marshmallows, then sprinkle half the streusel over the marshmallows. Top with the other half of the marshmallows and sprinkle the remaining streusel over the top. Place back into the oven for 10-15 minutes, until the topping is bubbly and brown. Keep an eye on it so the marshmallows don't burn. You can also place it under the broiler very briefly to add a little more color to the marshmallows.



**Your energy.  
Your choice.**

Through the Infinity Renewable Energy program, you can decide how much of the electricity you purchase is generated by renewable resources.

**Contact RLEC today to learn more about how you can participate in the program.**

# Celebrate with savings

Buy energy efficient Christmas lights and decorations

## LED Rebate

### How to apply:

1. Purchase LED Christmas plug-in (not battery-operated) lights and decorations in 2016.
2. Complete this rebate form and submit it to Red Lake Electric Cooperative by Dec. 31, 2016, with a copy of your sales receipt and the packaging showing the number of lights per string. ENERGY STAR® LEDs recommended.
3. Select appropriate rebate in the box below. Rebate cannot exceed 75 percent of cost. Maximum of 5 strings per customer.

**Power  
SAVERS**  
Working together to save energy

Name \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Strings	Rebate per String	Total Rebate
Less than 99 lights	\$ 3	
100-199 lights	\$ 6	
200-299 lights	\$ 9	
Greater than 300 lights	\$12	

Mail to: Red Lake Electric Cooperative • P.O. Box 430 • Red Lake Falls, MN 56750-0430



## SECURITY LIGHT CHANGEOUT

Red Lake Electric is working on replacing all the existing High Pressure Sodium (HPS) and Mercury Vapor (MV) lights with more efficient Light-Emitting Diode (LED) lights.

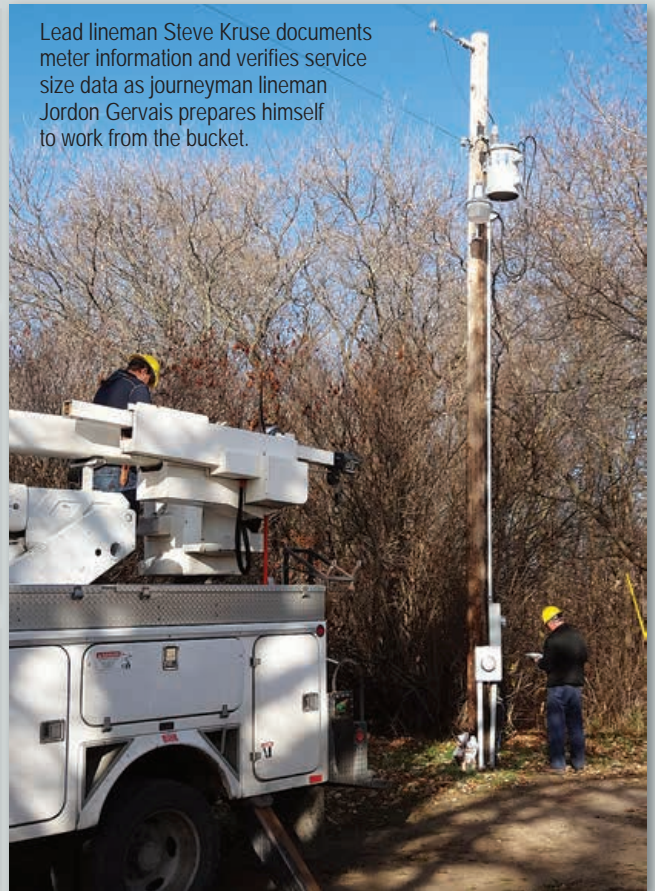
*(Top)* Jordan Gervais removes the existing HPS light from the arm, which will remain mounted on the pole.

*(Middle)* Gervais fastens the new LED light to the existing arm.

*(Bottom)* Overgrown tree branches that are close to the transformer or overhead power lines are taken care of at the time of the light replacement.



Lead lineman Steve Kruse documents meter information and verifies service size data as journeyman lineman Jordan Gervais prepares himself to work from the bucket.



## NEW UNDERGROUND SERVICE

Red Lake Electric Cooperative crews recently built an underground electric service for a seed and chemical storage building. Crew foreman Troy Schmitz and journeymen linemen Sam Pahlen, Aaron Derosier and Darcy Cardinal will change out the existing three-phase pole with a three-phase riser pole while leaving the line energized.



Pahlen (left) and Derosier (right) cover the energized line with protective rubber hoses and blankets in preparation for crew members to install a splice.



This device attached to the bucket, also called a wire lifting tree, will lift and hold the energized lines while crews replace the existing pole with the new pole.



Pahlen operates the truck winch while Schmitz it will sit on.



## NEW DRAIN TILE SERVICE

Crew foreman Casey Thronson, along with lead lineman Brett Knott and journeyman lineman Branden Narlock, use the cooperative's Vermeer cable plow to install an underground electric service that will provide power to a drain tile pump.



Brett Knott operates the Vermeer as it buries the cable in the ground. Red Lake Electric installs its primary cable 40 inches below the surface.



Red Lake Electric had to submit a request through Gopher State One Call for a locate of underground utilities. At this site, there is a phone line buried in the location the line crew needs to plow the underground cable. *Top photo:* A trench is made by Knott with the backhoe. *Bottom photo:* Narlock (left) and Thronson (right) use shovels to complete the dig around the phone line. Red Lake Electric must run its primary cable underneath the phone line.



z guides the pad-mount transformer onto the basement cabinet, which



Cardinal (in the bucket) sends three wires down a PVC pipe to Pahlen (in the trench), who will then feed the wires up through the basement cabinet to Schmitz; this process will provide the link between the pad-mounted transformer and the overhead power lines.



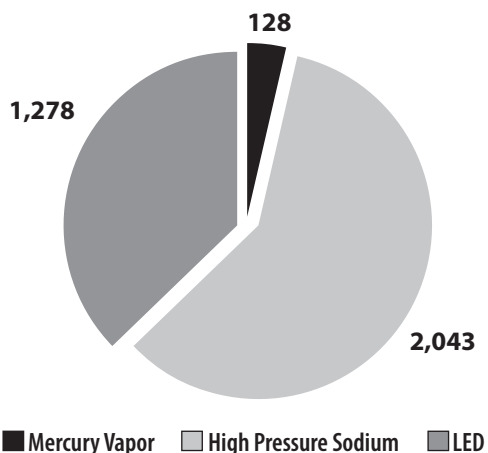
Derosier, wearing his rubber gloves and rubber arm sleeves, uses a hot stick to energize the new pad-mount transformer.

## QUICK TAKES

A look at some statistics from your  
Red Lake Electric Cooperative

The shorter daylight hours that come with this time of year don't mean you have to be in the dark. Red Lake Electric Cooperative has outdoor security lighting available for just pennies a night. The monthly \$8 charge includes all costs to operate and maintain the light. If you want to add lighting to your yard or work area, give RLEC a call today. 1-800-245-6068 or 218-253-2168.

Red Lake Electric's Security Lights



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons – holiday gatherings, houseguests and shorter days and longer nights. Small measures like turning down your thermostat, replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help control energy costs.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com

## NOTICE OF NAMES

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of the *Volts & Jolts* are the names and account numbers of some Red Lake Electric Cooperative members. They will appear within the articles in parentheses as such (9999999.99 Willie Ray Member). If you find your name and account number, clip it out and send it with your next payment. You will be credited with \$5 on your electric bill.



Like us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/redlakeelectric](http://www.facebook.com/redlakeelectric)

## 2016 Co-op Month Winners

In observation of Co-op Month, RLEC awarded \$50 energy credits to five of its members. A random drawing was conducted and the winners are:

**Brian Byklum**, Goodridge  
**Duane Gustafson**, Newfolden  
**Dawn Pyle**, Thief River Falls  
**Patrick Wichterman**, Plummer  
**Mitchell Skeim**, Thief River Falls

## Don't want to write a check? Want to save on postage?



Red Lake Electric has a new payment option to make paying your bill easy. This service is free. Sign-up is simple. Go to [www.redlakeelectric.com](http://www.redlakeelectric.com) and click on the Bill4U icon. There is now an app for your smart-phone. Just go to your app store and download the free app. Bill4U allows you to:

- Make your payments 24 hours a day directly from your checking or savings account, eliminating the cost of the check and postage.
- Access your billing statements at any time.
- View and compare your kilowatt-hour usage.

If you have any questions or need more information, visit our website or call Red Lake Electric at 800-245-6068.

## Electrical safety and conservation websites

The following is a list of websites that can provide information and education in reference to electrical safety and energy conservation. These websites are listed as links on Red Lake Electric's website at [www.redlakeelectric.com](http://www.redlakeelectric.com).

- Electrical Safety Foundation International: [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org)
- Alliance to Save Energy: [www.ase.org](http://www.ase.org)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: [www.epa.gov/greenhomes](http://www.epa.gov/greenhomes)
- Energy Star: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)
- Minnesota Safety Council: [www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org](http://www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org)
- Safe Electricity: [www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org)
- Lighting Controls Association: [www.aboutlightingcontrols.org](http://www.aboutlightingcontrols.org)
- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)



## ELECTRIC HEAT EXEMPTION

This is to certify that the primary source of heat for my residence is electricity and I am eligible for the electric heating sales tax exemption as provided by Minnesota State Law. The primary source is the source that supplies more heat than any other source for the largest period of time during the heating season.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## Cards of Thanks

Thank you so much for your generous donation to the Trails to Treatment (3312003.02 Eldon O. Quam) cancer benefit. It is greatly appreciated.

*Stacy Bierman, co-chair, Trails to Treatment*

Thank you for the grant we received from Operation Round Up funds. We are using this money for a drone camera to assist in our search and rescue operations.

*Lindy Schultz, secretary/treasurer  
Marshall County Sheriff's Posse*

On behalf of the St. Hilaire Fire & Rescue, I want to thank you and the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative for the generous donation of \$1,000. We have placed an order to buy one set of structural turnout gear (Personal Protective Equipment, PPE). Thank you for all that the RLEC Trust does for our community. This is a great program and we appreciate it very much.

*Seth Tveiten, treasurer St. Hilaire Fire & Rescue*

Thank you for your grant to Little Brother/Little Sister (LBLS). It is with your support that LBLS will be able to continue and help the youth in our community. Thank you to the customers for participating in Operation Round Up. Your contributions are going a long ways.

*Melora Bergee, Little Brother/Little Sister  
Program of Pennington County*

Thank you so much for the \$500 you gave the Historical Society. We will put it to good use on the Depot, which is in much need of new

*Red Lake Electric reserves the right to edit  
thank you notes when being published.*



siding. We hope to start on the project next summer.

*Margie Coan, Goodridge Area Historical Society*



The Goodridge Veterans Memorial Park Committee wishes to thank you for the grant, which made possible the construction of our new picnic shelter for the park. The shelter will be used by many in the community (2830003.02 Donald Wahlbeck) and is a great addition to the park. Your donation is much appreciated.

*Berny Vraa, board member  
Goodridge Veterans Memorial Park Committee*

## CLASSIFIEDS

**Members are invited to use this FREE WANT AD service.**

If you have anything to trade or sell, just drop a card to Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

### For Sale

40-acre hobby farm with fenced pasture. 912-square-foot house. Also barn and other outbuildings. Quiet neighborhood with low taxes. Great for horses, cattle or make into a hunting camp. Near Viking, Minn. Asking \$119,000. Call 218-686-9435.

## FEDERAL/STATE ENERGY ASSISTANCE

If you need help paying your electric utility bill, you may qualify for state or federal fuel assistance. For complete, qualification and application information, contact your local county welfare or community/citizen's action council listed below. These organizations may also provide budget counseling.

### Inter-County Community Council

Oklee, MN  
Serves East Polk, Pennington  
and Red Lake Counties  
218-796-5144  
Toll-free: 1-888-778-4008  
Fax: 218-796-5175

### Northwest Community Action

Badger, MN  
Serves East Marshall County  
218-528-3258  
Toll-free: 1-800-568-5329  
Fax: 218-528-3259

### Tri-Valley Opportunity Council

Crookston, MN  
Serves West Polk, West Marshall County  
218-281-9080  
Toll-free: 1-866-264-3729  
Fax: 218-281-0705

**Red Lake Community Action Agency**  
Red Lake, MN  
Serves Beltrami County  
218-679-1880

## Tips to prepare for cooler weather

As the sun goes down earlier each day, it reminds us to prepare for fall and winter weather. Sure, the weather has been nice recently, but that will change. Now that daylight savings has ended, there's less daylight after normal work hours for outside tasks.

To stay on schedule, use the list below to check off each chore. You'll save money and likely avoid problems due to freezing temperatures later on.

- ☐ Check exterior lights and timers. Fixtures that stay on over an hour should use LEDs (light-emitting diodes), which consume less electricity and last longer.
- ☐ Heating systems need more than just a filter change. If a service person hasn't checked your system in more than three years, it's money well spent for a thorough maintenance check.
- ☐ Close sliding air vents around your foundation until spring.
- ☐ Prevent outside faucets from freezing and bursting by removing attached garden hoses.
- ☐ Clean out those leaf-choked rain gutters; this task is much easier before they freeze.
- ☐ Wrap electric heat tape around unprotected water pipes. This allows you to plug in the heat strips quickly during extreme cold snaps.
- ☐ Stretch clear plastic over the outside of single-pane windows to cut heat loss. On the inside, any window can benefit from adding heat-shrink clear plastic to create an added dead air space.
- ☐ Locate air leaks through walls and ceilings (pipe penetrations, door edge seals, etc.) and tighten them up.
- ☐ Fall is the best time to check attic insulation levels while temperatures in your attic are still pleasant. To find proper depth of insulation for your region, visit <http://energy.gov/energysaver/insulation>.
- ☐ Prepare for power outages with a storm kit, containing canned food, batteries, flashlights and bottled water. Consider buying a generator. If you've already got one, make sure it runs well.

**You'll be glad you completed outside tasks before the weather gets cold and uncomfortable.**



## Average number of load control hours expected this winter

Though a number of factors could raise or lower the number, Minnkota Power Cooperative, your cooperative's wholesale energy supplier, estimates 190 hours of dual-heat load control this winter. This compares to the 10-year average of 210 hours and last year's total of 16 hours.

The low number of control hours in 2015-16 show what extreme temperatures – in this case above normal – can do to the estimate. Minnkota was predicting 250 hours at this time last year for the 2015-16 season.

Minnkota should hit that 190 hours mark or lower if the region has normal weather conditions, a soft energy market continues and forced outages at the Milton R. Young Station are infrequent.

"Really it's the market volatility, it's the weather and the forced outages that drive your control," said Todd Sailer, Minnkota senior manager of energy supply. "Those three things drive if you're going to be up in the 190, 200 range or if you are below 100."

The longest scheduled outage at the Young Station is just four days in winter 2016-17, which helped to keep this year's forecast lower than the 2015-16 projections.

During outages and periods of peak electric demand, Minnkota's first option is to purchase power from the power market. If affordable power is not available, off-peak loads are temporarily controlled. The savings are passed on to retail consumers through the lower off-peak heating rate.

"Our projections show that affordable power will be available for purchase throughout most of the winter to meet our members' needs," Sailer said. "Weather and the outages are going to be major factors in how many hours we actually end up with."

"We've been fortunate in the last couple of years in that when we've had forced outages, the markets were low. If we had that during 20 below temperatures in the region and

there was hardly any wind, that's a different scenario. You could have more than 50 hours in a week."

Sailer said when there is a combination of low wind generation, unseasonal weather conditions and generator outages in the region, Minnkota will see higher energy market prices and will need to control.

"Controlling load during these periods protects consumers from the volatility of the market and prevents the need to build new power plants just to serve peak loads," Sailer said.

An off-peak system consists of an electric heating source as its primary component. A supplemental heating source must operate several hundred hours or more during the winter season. Sailer said members with a well-maintained backup heating system should not notice a difference in comfort level (25708005.04 Dan Youngstrand) when their off-peak heating system is controlled.

"The ability to manage costs and plan for the heating season is one of the many benefits of the off-peak electric heating program," Sailer said.

Millions of dollars have been saved due to the successful operation of Minnkota's load management system over the past 38 years.

### Electric heating rebates available

Great incentives are available for the installation of qualifying electric heating equipment. Cooperative members will receive \$20 per kilowatt (kW) installed with a maximum rebate of \$600 through at least the end of 2017. The system must be the primary heating source in the building and on the off-peak program with a qualified backup heating source. The system must be hard-wired; plug-in systems are not eligible.

Some restrictions apply. Please contact Red Lake Electric's member services department for more information.