



DECEMBER 2019

Volts & Jolts

Published monthly for the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.
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

Merry Christmas

and
Happy
New Year!

FROM YOUR EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS
AT RED LAKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

– DIRECTORS –

Cecil Anderson Colette Kujava
Stacy Blawat Steve Linder
Bonnie Christians Peter Mosbeck
Aaron Chervestad Randy Versdahl
Mark Hanson

– EMPLOYEES –

Kelli Brateng Darcy Cardinal
Steve Conely Aaron Derosier
Javen Eidsmoe Jordon Gervais
Stephanie Johnson Jenny Kelley
Christie Klipping Brett Knott
Chris Knott Melanie LaCrosse
Laurie Malwitz Warren Malwitz
Branden Narlock Cindy Pahlen
Sam Pahlen Mike Raymond
Troy Schmitz Casey Thronson

Holiday Office Hours

Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters
will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

In case of an electric outage or emergency, please call
the after-hours phone number at 218-253-2200.

Cookies and Calendars

As a small token of appreciation to our
members, an open house will be held at
Red Lake Electric Cooperative's headquarters.

December 26 – 27

**Stop by for refreshments
and Christmas cookies
and pick up a 2020 calendar.**

RLEC EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS



Mike Raymond
HVAC Technician
30 Years



Troy Schmitz
Crew Foreman
15 Years



Casey Thronson
Crew Foreman
15 Years



Kelli Brateng
Member Services
Manager
10 Years



Aaron Derosier
Journeyman Lineman
10 Years



Jenny Kelley
Administration Manager
5 Years



Javen Eidsmoe
Power Use Advisor
5 Years

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.
 P.O. Box 430 • 412 International Drive S.W.
 Red Lake Falls, MN 56750-0430
 (USPS 663-400)

Subscription rate: \$2.50 per year

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Published 10 times a year, January through May, July and September through December, by Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., in the interest of its members and others. Periodical postage paid at the U.S. Post Office in Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750. POSTMASTER, SEND ADDRESS CHANGES to Volts & Jolts, c/o Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 430, Red Lake Falls, Minnesota 56750-0430. Email: info@redlakeelectric.com.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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 Vice President Stacy Blawat
 Secretary-Treasurer Mark Hanson
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 Aaron Chervestad, Bonnie Christians,
 Colette Kujava, Steve Linder, Peter Mosbeck
 Stephanie Johnson General Manager
 Steve Conely Manager of Electric
 System Operations
 Kelli Brateng Manager of Member Services

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 Toll-Free: 1-800-245-6068
 Fax: (218) 253-2630



AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE CALLS 218-253-2200

Website: www.redlakeelectric.com
 Email: info@redlakeelectric.com

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

MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

Northwest corner of Polk, western Marshall
 and Red Lake Counties:

Wayne Bergstrom – 701-520-9771

Pennington and eastern Marshall Counties:

Ronald Ditsch – 218-779-6758

Most of Polk County:

George Stage – 701-306-3511

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 for more information. The inspectors can be reached week-day mornings between 7 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.



From the Manager's Desk

by Stephanie Johnson

The holidays are a time of year that many of us eagerly anticipate.

The season is marked by special foods, seasonal decorations and lots of festivities. We cherish carrying on old family traditions and enjoy creating new ones. For me personally, I look forward to more time spent with family and friends.

You see, one of our founding principles as a co-op is "Concern for Community." While our main focus is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we want to give back. We want to help our community thrive. Electric cooperatives have a proud history of giving back. Red Lake Electric Cooperative members help us give back, too. Through the Operation Round Up program, members can round up their energy bills to the next dollar amount, and the extra change goes toward helping those in need, right here in our community. So many families go without on a daily basis and struggle (26395 Dacian Bienek) to make ends meet. This struggle can be especially hard during the holiday season.

There are many ways you can give back to the community that go

beyond dollar donations. Take some time to go through your closets and find clothes that no longer fit or have lost their use. Bag those items and take them to your local Salvation Army, Goodwill or church clothing drive. Volunteer for a local food or toy drive, deliver meals to the sick and the elderly or simply make a meal for a neighbor in need. No matter how great or small the act, every time we give back, we strengthen our community. So, take the time to give back this holiday season. You'll be glad you did.

Looking ahead to 2020, we hope you will share your opinions with us. We recognize that our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we continually seek your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you. We are led by you – the members of the co-op – and we depend on your feedback.

As we prepare for next year, we look forward to the opportunity to serve you and the greater community. On behalf of the Red Lake Electric Cooperative, we hope your holidays are indeed merry and bright!

You have the power to

- View daily and monthly energy use.
- View and pay your bills online.
- Go paperless and receive an email notice when your bill is ready to view.
- Compare energy use to changes in temperature.



SmartHub
 Online Bill Pay
 @ redlakeelectric.com



If you have questions regarding SmartHub, call us at 218-253-2168 or send an email to info@redlakeelectric.com.



Member Service Department

by Kelli Brateng

As we enter into winter and the season for “rippling,” I want to remind you of the options of off-peak heating.

As stated in last month's issue of the *Volts & Jolts*, it is estimated that the hours of control, for long term controlled electric heat, to be 200-250 hours throughout the heating season. As of Dec. 16, load control had amounted to three hours. With these numbers it is apparent we should experience several more hours of load control throughout the heating season. Be sure you have a dependable backup heat source with an abundant fuel supply.

Three control options available for controlling off-peak electric heat. The option chosen determines the rate per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

1. The first option is referred to as long-term control which results in the best heating rate, currently 5.6¢ per kWh. Heating equipment under this option is controlled on an as-needed basis and could be controlled continuously for 24 hours or more. This option requires an automatic, dependable, alternate heat source capable of heating the entire home or building.
2. Short-term control is the other option which yields a current rate of 7.9¢ per kWh. Heating equipment under this option can be controlled for four hours at one time and it can happen twice within 24 hours. Short-term control is also on an as-needed basis and generally occurs in the early daylight hours and early evening hours. Members with nonautomatic or wood backup heating systems choose this control option.

Current Service Detail					
Previous Activity					
Previous Balance		407.49	CR		
Payment Received 11/25/2019		308.00	CR		
Account Balance Before Current Charges		715.49	CR		
Current Activity					
Usage Charge	996 kWh @ 0.10200	101.59			
MPC Renewable Surcharge	4,436 kWh @ 0.00400	17.74			
Off-Peak Heat Usage	3,440 kWh @ 0.05600	192.64			
Facility Charge (11-25 kVa)		33.00			
Off-Peak Heat Equipment Charge		5.75			
LED Security Light CREE 50		8.00			
State Tax		9.53			
Total Current Activity		368.25			
Actual Account Balance		347.24	CR		
Budget Amount Due		308.00			
Unpaid previous balance subject to 1.5% per month late fee					
Off Peak Info					
Meter	Group	DO	Meter	Group	DO
145905491	309	15	145905491	309	15
145905491	309	15			

3. An option that applies to limited electric heating installations is medium-term control or daily cycling. This also results in a rate of 5.6¢ per kWh. This control option is for underfloor heating cable and panels and electric boilers supplying floor heat when there is a sand bed for a heat sink. These heating installations are controlled every day during the heating season with two on-times and two off-times amounting to approximately 12 hours each. The daily cycling option requires the heat sink to maintain temperature in the building.

If you are currently enrolled in the short-term control option and would like to change to the long-term control option and take advantage of a better rate, give us a call. Remember long-term control requires a reliable, automatic, backup heat source.

Checking load control status – online

If you are one of the many who participate in the money-saving off-peak program, there is an (26699 Irvin Christianson) easy way to see when your electric heat is being controlled. Just go to www.redlakeelectric.com, click on Member Services and then RLEC Load Management Data.

You will need to know your load group and double order to understand these numbers. Too see if you are being controlled, just look for the group number on the left and the double order number on the top and match those two up. You are controlled if the box says OFF in red. Load group and double order numbers are listed in your monthly electric bill, within the Current Service Detail box; see picture. If you are unsure of your load group and order numbers, please give us a call at 800-245-6068.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Our lives are generally always busy, but they seem to become extra busy this time of year. As you and your loved ones gather for fellowship, friendship and celebrating, remember the reason for the season and why we gather and celebrate. On behalf of my fellow employees and myself I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Recipe Corner



Submit your recipes to be published in *Volts & Jolts*. Email to info@redlakeelectric.com or mail to: Red Lake Electric Cooperative, PO Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

Grinch Brownies

One 9x13 box of brownie mix
26 mint Oreo cookies chopped
2 cups white chocolate chips
½ cup heavy cream
¼ teaspoon peppermint extract
4 drops of leaf green food coloring
Red Hots candies

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a 9x13 baking dish with parchment paper. Set aside.

Prepare the brownie mix according to the directions on the package.

Chop 16 Oreo cookies into quarters and mix them into the brownie batter.

Chop the remaining Oreo cookies into quarters putting them into another bowl. Set aside.

Spread the batter evenly in the pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes. Once baked, put the baking pan on a wire rack allowing the brownies to cool.

Bring a saucepan filled with water to simmering. Put a heat-safe bowl on top of the pot of simmering water.

Pour the white chocolate and heavy cream in the bowl. Stir constantly until melted. Take white chocolate chips and heavy cream mixture in the bowl off the heat.

Stir in the peppermint extract. Now add a few drops of green food coloring. Stir well to combine. (You can add more mint extract, up to ½ teaspoon.)

Quickly pour the ganache on top of the brownies. Sprinkle the remaining (25711 Richard D. Bergeson) chopped Oreos on top of the ganache. Sprinkle on the red candies.

Chill the brownies, allowing the ganache to set for at least an hour. Cut the brownies into bars.

New year. Same great rebates

Add home comfort and energy efficiency to your New Year's resolutions with help from Red Lake Electric Cooperative

Millions of Americans start each January with New Year's resolutions that may or may not make it to the end of the month. This year, set a resolution that's easy to keep. Make your home more comfortable and energy efficient with help from Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Great rebates and incentives are available to help you upgrade your heating and cooling system, water heater and electric vehicle chargers for electric vehicles.

Not sure where to start? Contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative for expert advice on improving your home's energy performance.

Take a look at our rebate list below to see which resolution you'll be checking off your list this year.

Electric vehicle chargers

Leading the charge 



Residential Charger



Commercial Charger



Electric Vehicle Charger Rebate Checklist – 240V Level 2 Charger

Must be on off-peak

- ☐ Electric vehicle (EV)
\$50/kW rebate
- ☐ Commercial – Forklifts, Zambonis, etc.
\$50/kW rebate

Electric heating



Electric Heating Rebate Checklist

Must be on off-peak.

- ☐ **Electric plenum heaters**
Easily converts your existing fossil fuel furnace into a dual-fuel heating system. You are able to use the most efficient, cost-effective heating source – fossil fuel or electricity – at any time.
Rebate of \$50 per kilowatt (kW)
- ☐ **Electric thermal storage heaters**
Draws electricity during off-peak hours when it is cheaper. Heat is stored in specially designed bricks to provide comfort 24 hours a day.
Rebate of \$50 per kW
- ☐ **Air-source heat pumps (including mini-split ductless option)**
Works just like a central air conditioner in the summer. In the fall and winter, they provide super-efficient supplemental heat.
Up to 16 SEER: Rebate of \$300 per ton
17 SEER or greater: Rebate of \$500 per ton
- ☐ **Geothermal heat pumps**
Provides the highest efficiency for space heating and cooling available today. The system transfers heat to and from the earth using only small amounts of electricity.
Closed loop: Rebate of \$400 per ton
Open loop: Rebate of \$200 per ton
- ☐ **Electric underfloor boiler**
A popular off-peak option because the system transfers consistently across the floor to reach people and objects, providing both comfort and efficiency. Applications include electric boiler with hydronic tubing.
Rebate of \$50 per kW
- ☐ **Other electric heating systems**
Options include electric baseboards, cove heaters, electric floor cable, mats and more.
Rebate of \$20 per kW

Water heaters



Electric Water Heater Rebate Checklist

Must be on off-peak

- ☐ 100 gallon or greater

\$350 rebate

- ☐ 56-99 gallon

\$300 rebate

- ☐ 55 gallon or less

\$150 rebate

- ☐ **Bonus rebates:**

Add \$250 if converting from natural gas or propane.

Add \$100 for new building construction.

All equipment must be new and installed on Red Lake Electric Cooperative's system

Equipment must be installed on RLEC's off-peak program

Contact Member Services for more details!

218-253-2168

4

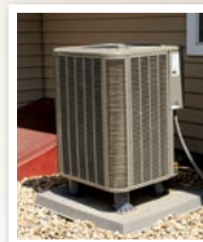
Heating Options

TO CONSIDER WHEN PLANNING A NEW OR RETROFIT HEATING SYSTEM

Air-source heat pump with modulating plenum heater and propane backup

Air-source heat pumps are very efficient systems that transfer heat instead of creating it. In the summer, they work exactly like a central air conditioner, but in the winter they provide very economical heat until the temperature drops below the set point (usually 20-30 degrees F). Then the modulating plenum heater kicks in and works with the heat pump for extra savings. When controlled, a propane furnace kicks in.

What's nice about air-source heat pumps is how they provide year-round benefits and either pair nicely with a propane (23229 Neil W. Bugge) or natural gas furnace or in a heat pump/modulating plenum/propane furnace combination on the off-peak rate. This gives members the freedom to choose fuel sources.



Hydronic floor heat

A popular option for off-peak due to its comfort. The key is to install the proper heat storage base with sand and slab or install a dual-fuel system. Complete perimeter insulation is necessary for both styles.



Geothermal heat pumps

Geothermal heat pumps provide the highest efficiencies for space heating and cooling today. They use the constant temperature of the earth to transfer heat.

When paired with a fossil fuel furnace backup, geothermal heat pumps get the off-peak rate for a heating price that is hard to beat when you combine efficiency with the 5.6 cent per kWh off-peak rate.



Steffes thermal storage with air-source heat pump

An all-electric option that still receives the off-peak rate, an electric thermal storage system coupled with a heat pump eliminates the need for a fossil fuel backup when sized properly. The heat pump provides the efficiency and the Steffes provides the backup, making the system eligible for the off-peak rate – providing excellent energy savings.



Steffes systems convert electricity into heat and store that heat in specially designed bricks.

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 (20708 Gary F. Barrett) on Red Lake Electric's website at www.redlakeelectric.com.

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



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.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Purchasing electronic gifts this holiday season? Remember to purchase ENERGY STAR®-certified electronics and give the gift of energy efficiency. Visit www.energystar.gov/productfinder for a full list of efficient products.

Source: energy.gov



Like us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/redlakeelectric

Four tips for winter safety



Don't overload outlets. Overloaded outlets are a major cause of residential fires. Avoid using extension cords or multioutlet converters for appliance connections – they should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. If you're relying heavily on extension cords in general, you may need additional outlets to address your needs. Contact a qualified electrician to inspect your home and add new outlets.

Never leave space heaters unattended. If you're using a space heater, turn it off before leaving the room. Make sure heaters are placed at least 3 feet away from flammable items. It should also be noted that space heaters (22116 Betty Carpenter) take a toll on your energy bills. If you're using them throughout your home, it may be time to upgrade your home heating system.

Inspect heating pads and electric blankets. These items cause nearly 500 fires every year. Electric blankets that are more than 10 years old create additional risks for a fire hazard. Inspect your electric blankets and heating pads – look for dark, charred or frayed spots, and make sure the electrical cord is not damaged. Do not place any items on top of a heating pad or electric blanket, and never fold them when in use.

Use portable generators safely. Unfortunately, winter storms can cause prolonged power outages, which means many consumers will use portable generators to power their homes. Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. For portable generators, plug appliances directly into (26590 June Brustad) the outlet provided on the generator. Start the generator first, before you plug in appliances. Run it in a well-ventilated area outside your home. The carbon monoxide it generates is deadly, so keep it away from your garage, doors, windows and vents.



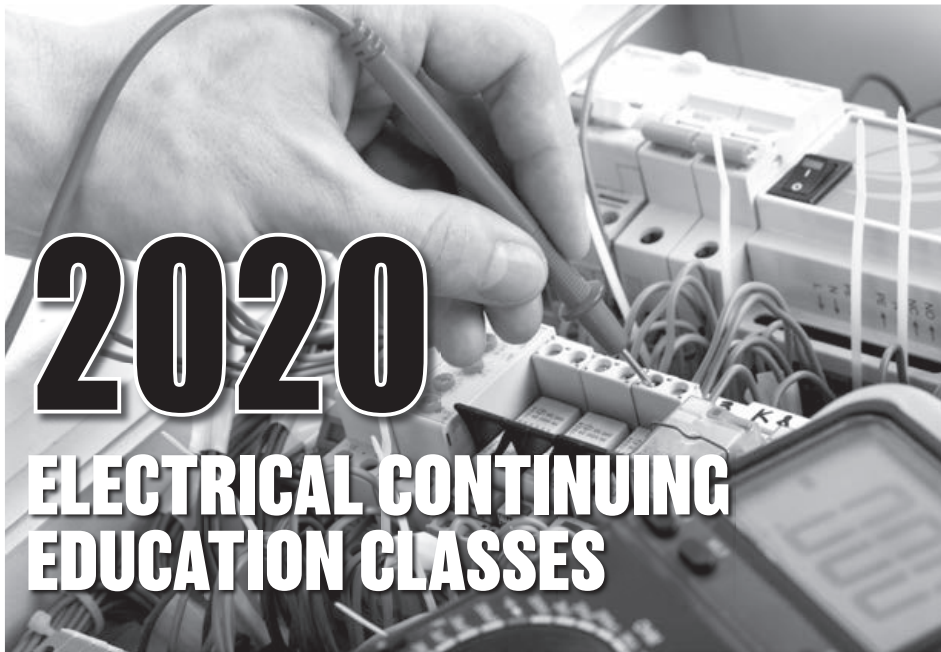
ELECTRIC HEAT EXEMPTION

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 _____



Electrical contractor continuing education sessions set for January, February

Minnkota Power Cooperative and Red Lake Electric Cooperative will again provide an opportunity for area electricians to obtain credits for license renewal by attending one of the six continuing education classes being offered throughout the region.

This marks the 32nd year of the successful program, which is aimed at providing area trade allies with the latest information on electrical code and practices.

The electrical workshops will be held Jan. 8 and Jan. 9 at the Holiday Inn in Fargo. The training then moves to the Bigwood Event Center in Fergus Falls on Jan. 14, and the Eagles Club in Bemidji on Jan. 23. The workshops conclude with classes Feb. 4 and Feb. 5 at Minnkota Power Cooperative's headquarters in Grand Forks.

The registration fee is \$75 for eight code credits. Taking the class on multiple days will not qualify for 16 code credits. Registration can be done online at www.minnkota.com. Registration must be completed (23172 Tim Benedict) at least seven days prior to the seminar.

For residential building contractor continuing education workshops, contact your local home builders association.

For more information about the program, call (701) 795-4292 or email questions to contractortraining@minnkota.com.



Dates and Locations

Fargo - Wednesday, Jan. 8

Holiday Inn, 701.282.2700
3803 13th Ave South
Fargo, ND 58103

Fargo - Thursday, Jan. 9

Holiday Inn, 701.282.2700
3803 13th Ave South
Fargo, ND 58103

Fergus Falls - Tuesday, Jan. 14

Bigwood Event Center, 218.739.2211
925 Western Ave
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Bemidji - Thursday, Jan. 23

Eagles Club, 218.751.9985
1270 Neilson Ave SE
Bemidji, MN 56601

Grand Forks - Tuesday, Feb. 4

Minnkota Power Cooperative, 701.795.4292
5301 32nd Ave South
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Grand Forks - Wednesday, Feb. 5

Minnkota Power Cooperative, 701.795.4292
5301 32nd Ave South
Grand Forks, ND 58201

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

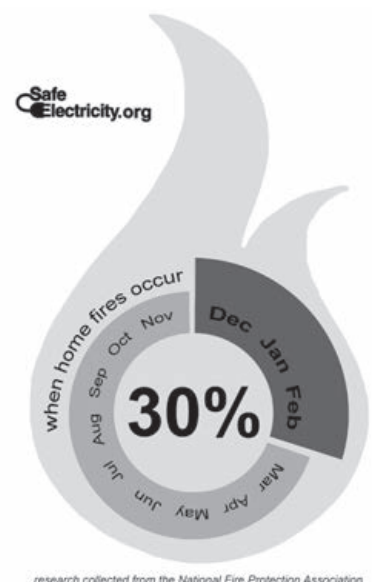
Badger, MN
Serves East Marshall County
218-528-3258
Toll-free: 1-800-568-5329
Fax: 218-528-3259

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council

Crookston, MN
Serves West Polk and
West Marshall Counties
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



research collected from the National Fire Protection Association



RIDE WITH CAUTION

BEWARE OF GUY WIRES

Watch for guy wires – the cables that anchor power poles. Electrical transformer boxes can also be hidden by snow. Driving at a safe speed will help you identify and avoid them before it's too late. If you see damaged electrical equipment, stay away and call us immediately.

*We make your holidays
merry and bright.*



As the nights grow longer, our lives are brightened and our hearts warmed by the lights of Christmas.

The celebration of Christmas is surrounded by lights – colored lights twinkling on the tree, lights shining throughout the countryside and children's faces lit with a joy that is reflected in their parents' eyes.

Electricity helps make your holidays merry and bright by providing you with the gift of light – a powerful value, each and every day.