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Mark Your Calendar

- Dec 15 Electric Bill Due
- Dec 24 & 25 Christmas Holiday, Office Closed
- Dec 30 Board Meeting
- Jan 1 New Year's Day Holiday, Office Closed



Find Your Account Number & Win!

TEC has hidden an account number in this newsletter. If you find your account number, notify us by January 1st and receive a **\$10 bill credit**.

watt matters

DEC | 25



Reflecting on Progress, Planning for the Future

JEREMY HUHNSTOCK | General Manager

As we close another year, I want to pause and express gratitude—for you, the members of Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc.—for your continued trust and support. Our cooperative was built on the promise of people coming together to improve the quality of life in their communities, and that promise still guides everything we do today.

Each decision, whether it's about delivering reliable electricity, innovating for the future or advocating for smart energy policies that impact our local community, comes back to one simple question: How will this benefit the members we serve?

This past year has been marked by meaningful progress, both in strengthening our local system and in working at the national level to influence energy policies that directly affect reliability, affordability and resilience. While the details of federal regulations can feel distant, they shape our daily operations here at home.

Over the past year, electric cooperatives across the country came together for advocacy efforts on the EPA's Power Plant Rule. As originally written, the rule would have forced a rapid shift away from always-available power generation resources, threatening the accessibility of a diverse fuel supply that keeps electricity reliable. Renewable energy sources are an essential and growing part of our energy future, but we also know that the demand for electricity is rising rapidly, and natural gas, coal and nuclear remain essential for ensuring power is available around the clock. As we collaborated and engaged with policymakers, we pressed for a more balanced approach to generating power—one that supports clean energy innovation while still recognizing the role of traditional resources. Our efforts are helping to shape a more workable path forward that better protects reliability and keeps costs in check for TEC members.

Another area of ongoing progress came through advocacy work on federal permitting reform. For too long, outdated rules and lengthy delays have stood in the way of building critical infrastructure, including new transmission lines and generation projects. Modernizing this process is essential if we are going to strengthen the electric grid and keep pace with growing

demand. This year, electric co-ops helped move the needle on permitting reform, advocating for policies that make the process faster, more predictable and more efficient. Investments we make in infrastructure will reach communities sooner, improving reliability and preparing us for the future.

We're also seeing progress with bipartisan support of the FEMA Act of 2025, which would speed up the disaster recovery process for electric cooperatives and the communities they serve. Severe storms are a fact of life, and their impact on the electric system can be devastating. FEMA was enabled in May 2022 for Traverse Electric; after torrential downpours and strong winds took down multiple lines in the northern part of our system.

FEMA is a crucial partner for electric co-ops in efforts to restore power after disaster strikes, but currently, the federal reimbursement process after a major storm is slow and full of red tape. If passed, the bill would make FEMA a stronger, more responsive agency to help strengthen rural resilience, protect taxpayer dollars and ensure essential services are restored as quickly as possible after a natural disaster.

Achievements like these are not just wins in Washington—they are wins for TEC members like you.

In addition to advocacy efforts, we are proactively addressing our communities' needs for the future by investing in new technologies and programs that improve service for our members. Through advanced monitoring systems and AI tools that improve daily operations, we are better equipped to identify power delivery issues or challenges before they occur.

As we look ahead to a new year, I see both challenges and opportunities on the horizon. The energy industry is undergoing significant change driven by the rising need for more electricity, new tools and technologies, and federal energy policies.

The path forward requires innovative thinking and member-focused solutions. I'm confident that with the dedication of TEC employees and the continued support of our members, we are well positioned to adapt and meet challenges head-on. Through it all, our promise to you remains steadfast: reliable power for today—and tomorrow.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season! ▶

We Have A Winner!

Congratulations to our Cooperative Month Bill Credit Drawing Winners!

\$100 WINNER:

Dale Peterson

\$50 WINNERS:

Roger Frisch
Keith Homan

\$25 WINNERS:

Barbara Bartell, Judy Otto, Anthony Widhalm, Devere Klemm, Delores Thompson, Herman Barutt, Tom Gilsdorf, Gregory Brandt, Lonnie Knutson, Widhalm Farms.



Traverse Electric welcomes journeyman lineman, Tristan Varpness. Tristan began at Traverse Electric at the end of October.



RECIPES NEEDED

Help us create another great cookbook by submitting your favorite recipes.

Submit recipes to graphics@eastriver.coop or contact your local co-op for more information.



Deadline to submit a recipe is December 15

Submit to be entered into a drawing for 1 of 2 \$100 Visa gift cards

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

To maximize your fireplace's efficiency, always keep the damper closed when the fireplace is not in use. An open damper is like an open window, allowing warm indoor air to escape and cold air to enter. Consider installing a fireplace insert, which improves heat output by circulating warm air into the room rather than letting it escape up the chimney. Also, burn only seasoned hardwood to ensure a hotter, cleaner burn. Regularly clean and inspect your chimney to maintain safe and efficient operation.

Source: energy.gov

Community Focused: Supporting Area First Responders



Traverse Electric is proud to support our area volunteer ambulance/first responders that provide a valuable service within our territory #2174 by donating our 2025 unclaimed capital credits. In total, \$9,475.28 was donated to volunteer ambulance/first responder services in Minnesota and South Dakota. ▶



Having Trouble Paying Your Winter Utility Bill?

Energy Assistance programs may be able to help you.

To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

MINNESOTA:

- ▶ Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- ▶ Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance.
- ▶ For Wilkin, Traverse, Grant, Stevens Counties: West Central MN Communities Actions, Elbow Lake, MN. Email: eap@wcmca.org, 800-492-4805, <https://wcmca.org/program-area/energy-assistance/>
- ▶ For Big Stone County: Prairie Five Community Action, Montevideo, MN. Email: eap@prairiefive.org, 800-292-5437 or 320-839-211 (Ortonville Office), <https://prairiefive.org/programs/energy-assistance/>

SOUTH DAKOTA:

- ▶ Visit the South Dakota Department of Social Services Energy and Weatherization Assistance website, Energy and Weatherization Assistance (sd.gov), Pierre, SD. 800-233-8503. Email: DSSHeat@state.sd.us.

October 2025 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

- The October regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 8 AM.
- Absent: Ehlers.
- Staff members present were General Manager, Jeremy Huhnstock, Dale Schwagel, and Karen Lupkes.
- President Diekmann called the meeting to order.
- The agenda was approved.
- 2026 Rates Presentation review and discussion facilitated by Kristi Robinson, Engineer.
- The minutes of the September regular board meeting were approved.
- The September check register was approved.
- Discussed the East River and Basin Electric video reports, and the NRECA training video: *The Risks of Micromanagement by the Board*.
- Diekmann gave an East River Board Report.
- Huhnstock presented the General Manager's Report, which included:
 - Provided a Basin Electric update.
 - Provided an East River update.
 - REED Fund review.
 - NRECA update.
 - MREA and MN legislative update.
 - SDREA and SD legislative update.
 - Other matters of interest.
- Lupkes gave the Office Manager's Report, which included:
 - September 30, 2025 accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
 - A list of new members was reviewed.
 - The government shutdown postponed funding to energy assistance programs.

- Update on Electrical Dept. and Generator Program.
- East River power bill and Basin's financial reports reviewed.
- Reviewed and approved the September 2025 Financial Report.
- The Operations Report was presented per written report. Items included:
 - Provided a crew update.
 - Reviewed upcoming projects for this Fall and for 2026, and completed projects.
 - Electronics were installed at the Wendell Substation.
 - Carr's is done with tree trimming for the year and the bid for 2026 tree trimming is in progress.
 - Reported that a contractor dug into our cable twice with an invalid locate ticket.
 - Our new linemen completed new employee safety orientation training.
 - Recently attended the Operations Conference and helped with RESAP inspections recently.
 - Reviewed our Safety Program.
 - Outages were reviewed.
- Discussed upcoming January/February District Meeting locations and dates.
- Approved the 2024 990 as prepared by CliftonLarsonAllen.
- Reviewed the 2026 Preliminary Budget, Capital Budget, and Work Plan Summary.
- Reviewed upcoming meetings and attendees.
- Meeting adjourned. ▶

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Doug Diekmann, Beardsley, MN
 Vice-President: Terry Monson, Veblen, SD
 Secretary: Matthew Glynn, Sisseton, SD
 Treasurer: Michael Marks, Norcross, MN
 Stacy Ehlers, Wheaton, MN
 Michael Gaulrapp, Breckenridge, MN
 Jared Hamling, Rosholt, SD
 Bradley Rudolph, Dumont, MN
 Kaley Thoennes, Chokio, MN

OFFICE PERSONNEL

Jeremy Huhnstock – General Manager
 Karen Lupkes – Office Manager
 Dale Schwagel – Operations Manager
 Melissa Przymus – Accountant
 Stacie Johannsen – Billing Clerk

OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

Richard Davis – Foreman
 Joe Gahlon – Journeyman Lineworker
 Isaac Hoverson – Journeyman Lineworker
 Austin Reinke – Journeyman Lineworker
 Tristan Varpness – Journeyman Lineworker
 Tayden George – Apprentice Lineworker
 Jordan Pearson – Apprentice Lineworker
 Chris Falk – Facility/Staking Technician
 Robert Groebner – Facility Technician

GENERAL MANAGER'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Jeremy Huhnstock
 Cell: 320-349-9901 | Direct: 320-563-1055
 jhuhnstock@traverseelectric.com

MEMBER SERVICE REP/MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Connor Bartz
 – Journeyman Electrician 320-287-0009

ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

MINNESOTA

Brandon Lennox	320-808-5309
Big Stone County	Grant County
Stevens County	Traverse County
Brent Piekarski	651-420-0855
Wilkin County	

NORTH DAKOTA

Mark Moderow	701-226-3779
Richland County	

SOUTH DAKOTA

Nick Helseth	605-280-2188
Marshall County	Roberts County

In case of a power outage, call

(800) 927-5443

6590 State Highway 27

P.O. Box 66

Wheaton, MN 56296 USA

Toll-free phone: (800) 927-5443

Local phone: (320) 563-8616

Hours of Operation

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
 October 1–April 30

Web site: www.traverseelectric.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Our Mission: To provide dependable service at the lowest possible rates, consistent with sound business principles.

TEC September 2025 Financials

	Sept. 2024	Sept. 2025	YTD 2025
Total Revenue.	\$1,001,315.14	\$1,110,233.66	\$11,097,576.12
Cost of Power.	\$639,278.00	\$635,946.07	\$6,374,125.52
Total Cost of Service.	\$982,516.84	\$1,067,101.59	\$10,381,705.36
Operating Margins	\$18,798.30	\$43,132.07	\$715,870.76
Total Margins	\$50,992.61	\$81,253.84	\$1,156,095.56
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased	9,726,968	9,114,963	98,515,500
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales . . .	9,290,708	8,663,468	93,944,430
Line Loss.	4%	5%	4%