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Mark Your Calendar

Feb 15 Electric Bills Due

Feb 17 Scholarship App
Deadline

Feb 17 Youth Tour Essay
Deadline

Feb 25 Board Meeting

Mar 20 Annual Meeting



Find Your Account Number & Win!

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



Understanding Factors That Impact Your Energy Bills

JEREMY HUHNSTOCK
General Manager

February brings some of the coldest weather of the year, and as our home heating systems work harder and longer to keep us warm, we typically see higher energy bills.

There are a few key factors that affect electricity prices, as well as a few ways you can make a meaningful impact on home energy savings.

When you receive your monthly bill from Traverse Electric Cooperative, you're provided with a summary of how much electricity you used during the billing cycle. You can even see how electricity use may have spiked on days when you used more electricity, such as a particularly chilly day or when relatives were staying with you.

But you might be surprised to learn that beyond your monthly energy consumption, there are external factors that can impact the cost of electricity.

Fuel Prices

TEC purchases electricity from our power generation partner, Basin Electric Cooperative, at a wholesale cost, then we deliver that power to our local communities. The cost of generating and transmitting electricity from our generation partner accounts for a significant portion of the cost to provide electric service to local homes and businesses--and the cost of fuels that are used to generate that electricity, such as natural gas and coal, fluctuate based on supply and demand. While these fluctuations can impact the cost of electricity, we work closely with

Basin Electric Cooperative to plan ahead and help stabilize electricity prices for our members.

Extreme Weather

While we can't control the weather, we can review weather patterns and forecasts to prepare for times of extreme cold or heat, when we know the demand for electricity will increase. But when temperatures become extremely cold and the demand for electricity spikes, the price of electricity can also increase.

Infrastructure and Equipment

To cover the costs associated with providing electricity to your home or business, TEC members pay a monthly service charge. This flat monthly fee ensures the cost of equipment, materials, labor and daily operations are covered for all members in TEC's service territory. To ensure the reliable service you expect and deserve, we must maintain the local grid, including power lines, substations and other essential equipment.

Energy Policy and Regulations

Federal energy policies and regulations can have a profound impact on electricity costs. As energy generation shifts to the use of more renewable sources and stricter regulations for traditional, always-available fuel sources, such as natural gas and coal plants, costly upgrades and technologies must be constructed and deployed. These additional costs are

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Understanding Factors That Impact Your Energy Bills

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ultimately passed to consumers.

U.S. power consumption is expected to double by 2050. Across the country, electric cooperatives are working with members of Congress to advocate for smart energy policies that reliably power our local communities. Our national association, NRECA, is urging the Trump Administration to take concrete steps to repeal the EPA's power plant rule and bolster the long-term reliability of the nation's grid.

You Have Control

While many of these external factors that impact electricity costs are out of our control, we all have the power to manage our energy use at home. The most effective way to lower use is thermostat management. Since heating and cooling account for a major portion of home energy use, adjusting the thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting can help you save energy and money. Remember to service your heating and cooling system annually and replace dirty filters as needed.

You can also reduce energy use by taking advantage of off-peak periods, when the demand for electricity is lower. By opting into our Time-of-Use rate, residential members will receive a lower rate when energy is used during off-peak periods outlined in the rate. Reserve energy-intensive chores for off-peak times, such as early in the morning or later in the evening, to save energy. Be sure to seal air leaks around windows, doors and other areas where gaps are possible. This will help your heating and cooling system work less and improve the overall comfort of your home.

Traverse Electric Cooperative is your local energy partner, and we're here to help. As always, we will continue working diligently to provide you with reliable power at an affordable cost. ▶

This Summer... Go on a Power Trip!



This trip is sponsored by your local member-owned rural electric cooperative.

Each entrant must submit an essay, not to exceed 500 words, on the following topic: "If chosen as a youth tour delegate, you will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to experience and learn about America's rich history. What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of, and what would you have contributed?"

All essays must be typed and include a cover sheet that states the title of the essay, the entrant's name and address, name of parent or guardian, and the name of your school. Applicants should be a dependent of a Traverse Electric member and a high school junior or senior or at least age 16. **Essay deadline is February 17, 2025.**

Essays should be sent to Traverse Electric, PO Box 66, Wheaton, MN 56296. ▶

Scholarships Offered to Local Students

Local students are encouraged to apply for a \$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship and a \$500 Traverse Electric Scholarship. Applications are available on our website, www.traverseelectric.com, and from high school counselors.

Applications can also be picked up at our office or emailed upon request by calling our office at 800-927-5443. Please return your completed application to Traverse Electric Cooperative, Attn: Karen Lupkes, PO Box 66, Wheaton, MN 56296 by Feb. 17, 2025. ▶



'Who Powers You' Contest Nominations Now Being Accepted

Nominations are now open for “Who Powers You,” a contest being hosted by Traverse Electric Cooperative and the region’s other Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives. The fourth annual Who Powers You contest seeks to highlight local figures who are making a difference in their communities.

“No one succeeds alone, and that is especially true in rural areas, where friends and neighbors in tight-knit communities support, encourage and inspire each other,” said Jeremy Huhnstock, General Manager. “Those people don’t do it for the recognition, but they deserve to be recognized, and we’d like to help make that happen.” #2263

Member-owners, employees, and residents who live or work within the service territory of the region’s Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are eligible to be nominated. Nominations will be accepted February 3 through April 11, 2025. Three final winners will be selected by a panel of judges based on the impact that they have on the community. Weekly finalists will be announced and featured on Keloland Living starting March 13, 2025, and the three contest winners will be announced on Keloland Living on May 22, 2025.

The Who Powers You contest grand prize winner will receive a \$3,000 prize. A second place winner will receive \$1,500 and the contest’s third place winner will receive \$500.

“As an electric cooperative, our services extend beyond delivering safe, affordable and reliable power to our member-owners,” said Jeremy Huhnstock, General Manager. “The Who Powers You contest highlights the commitment of our co-op to the communities and member-owners that we serve. We know that our co-op community is filled with people making a difference. Let’s celebrate them!”

To learn more about the Who Powers You contest and to nominate someone in your community, visit WhoPowersYouContest.com. ▶

TELL US WHO POWERS YOU!

We know our co-op community is filled with people making a difference. Let’s celebrate them! Nominate a hero in your community who goes above and beyond. **They could win up to \$3,000!**

Nominate your local hero at WHOPOWERSYOUCONTEST.COM



2024 CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS INVALID ADDRESS LIST

Name	Address	Yrs in Service	Name	Address	Yrs in Service
Jessica Cloud	Summit SD	2008-2013	Carolynne Pederson Messler	Sioux Falls, SD	2008-2013
Shanda Crandall	New Effingtson SD	2008	Randy Remer	Richfield MN	1999-2018
Steve Fischer	Wheaton MN	1994-2014	Cyril Spinler	Wadena MN	1976-2014
Sylvester Fischer	Graceville MN	1973-2009	Doug Swenson	Denver CO	1987-2019
Barbara Gail	Fergus Falls MN	2008	Vertical Solutions	Ortonville MN	2003-2014
Bonita Hart	Sisseton, SD	2004-2016	Garth & Jeannie Whiddon	Webster SD	2003-2020
James Hennen	Wheaton MN	1973-2018	Harry Whitehead	Las Vegas, NV	2008-2013
Craig & Sally Johnson	St Cloud MN	2008-2012	Shawn Wiegman	Graceville MN	2002-2011
Michael Lick	Sturgis SD	1978-2023			

December 2024 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The December regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, December 31, 2024 at 9 AM.

Absent: None.

Staff members present were General Manager, Jeremy Huhnstock, Dale Schwagel, and Karen Lupkes.

President Diekmann called the meeting to order.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes of the November regular board meeting were approved.

The November check register was approved.

Discussed the East River and Basin Electric video reports, and the NRECA training video: What Directors Need to Know about Line Extension.

Diekmann gave an East River Board Report.

Monson reported on the SD Legislative Dinner.

Hamling reported on the Mid-West Consumers Annual Meeting.

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:

- ▶ November 30, 2024 accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
- ▶ A list of new members was reviewed.
- ▶ Update on Electrical Dept. and Generator Program.
- ▶ East River power bill and Basin's financial reports reviewed.

Reviewed and approved the November 2024 Financial Report.

The Operations Report was presented per written report. Items included:

- ▶ Provided a crew update.
- ▶ Reviewed upcoming and completed projects.
- ▶ Contracts for 2025 tree trimming, pole inspections, and underground construction are in place.
- ▶ Reviewed 2025 projects.
- ▶ Reviewed our Safety Program.
- ▶ Outages were reviewed.

Approved revisions to Policy 107.

Reviewed the district meetings schedule.

Selected CRC, MREA, and NRECA voting delegates.

Accepted the resignation of District 1 Director, Frisch effective March 20, 2025.

Received an update on the sale of the old properties.

Reviewed upcoming meetings and attendees.

Meeting adjourned. ▶

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Doug Diekmann, Beardsley, MN
 Vice-President: Tom Frisch, Dumont, MN
 Secretary: Matthew Glynn, Sisseton, SD
 Treasurer: Michael Marks, Norcross, MN
 Stacy Ehlers, Wheaton, MN
 Michael Gaulrapp, Breckenridge, MN
 Jared Hamling, Rosholt, SD
 Terry Monson, Veblen, SD
 Bradley Rudolph, Dumont, 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
 Lonnie Tekrony – Journeyman Lineworker
 Joe Gahlon – Journeyman Lineworker
 Austin Reinke – Journeyman Lineworker
 Isaac Callens – Journeyman Lineworker
 Tayden George – 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

Steve Powers 320-808-9104
 Connor Bartz
 – Journeyman Electrician 320-287-0009

ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS MINNESOTA

Brandon Lennox 320-808-5309
 Big Stone County Grant County
 Stevens County Traverse County
 Andy Bozovsky 218-340-0926
 Wilkin County

NORTH DAKOTA

Mark Moderow 701-226-3779
 Richland County

SOUTH DAKOTA

John Koenig 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 December 2024 Financials

	Dec 2023	Dec 2024	YTD 2024
Total Revenue	\$1,211,013.10	\$1,230,988.97	\$13,469,399.93
Cost of Power	\$687,863.75	\$718,472.16	\$8,286,327.20
Total Cost of Service	\$1,139,794.72	\$1,119,636.06	\$13,320,241.83
Operating Margins	\$71,218.38	\$111,352.91	\$149,158.10
Total Margins	\$892,535.93	\$804,642.84	\$1,089,144.88
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased	12,796,074	12,630,070	136,864,919
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales	12,138,745	12,022,725	130,505,113
Line Loss	4%	4%	4%