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Mark Your Calendar

- Jan 1 Office Closed
- Jan 15 Electric Bills Due
- Jan 28 Board Meeting
- Jan 28 District Meetings @ Traverse Electric
- Jan 29 District Meeting in Campbell
- Jan 30 District Meeting in Claire City
- Feb 3 District Meeting in Beardsley



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**.



New Year, Exciting New Changes

JEREMY HUHNSTOCK
General Manager

As we closed out 2024, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a remarkable year for Traverse Electric Cooperative. It's been a period of growth and development, with major building projects finally finished and exciting new software and member experience tools that we will be rolling out in 2025.

Building for the Future:

Every year Traverse Electric makes investments into our infrastructure to ensure we continue to provide reliable and affordable power to our members. Most of this takes place by performing maintenance on our equipment or moving our lines from overhead to underground. Moving lines from overhead to underground is done for multiple reasons; reliability, accessibility, and capacity. This also allows us to take down overhead lines that are running through fields, where they are a hazard for the farmers. Every year Traverse Electric invests in Right of Way maintenance. This year Traverse Electric invested over \$250,000 into Right of Way clearing to prevent trees from falling onto our lines. This preventative maintenance will increase our reliability for years to come. In early 2024, Traverse Electric finished up our short- and long-term construction work plan with Star Energy. This proposed plan was submitted to RUS to complete their review and to perform the environmental reviews for the project areas. At the November Board

Meeting, the documents were signed to release the funds this construction work plan entails.

Enhancing Your Experience:

We're committed to improving your experience as a member. In 2025, we will be launching a new online member portal, providing you with easier access to account information, billing and online payments. Behind the scenes, we're implementing a new system that integrates into every aspect of our daily operations, helping us streamline and improve our services. This new system includes new financial, customer information system (CIS), mapping, staking, and outage management (OMS) software that all "speak" to each other. None of this would be possible without the dedication and hard work of our team!

Happy New Year,

Jeremy



District Meetings Notice

Districts 3, 6, & 9 Now Open for Director Nominations

This year, Districts 3 (Michael Gaulrapp), 6 (Stacy Ehlers), and 9 (Terry Monson) director terms are up for a 3 year term. All nomination committee meetings shown below will begin at noon with a light lunch provided.

If you are unable to make the District Meeting to be nominated and are interested in becoming a director, you can also be placed on the ballot for your district by petition (obtain ten (10) signatures from members who reside within your district). Directors from these three districts are elected at our annual meeting held March 20, 2025. Please call our office if you are interested in more information on becoming a director, or if you are unsure of what district you reside in.

- ▶ **Districts 1, 2, & 6:** Tues., Jan. 28, 2025 @ Noon, Traverse Electric's Office, 6590 St Hwy 27, Wheaton, MN
- ▶ **District 3:** Wed., Jan. 29, 2025 @ Noon, Campbell Community Center, Campbell, MN
- ▶ **Districts 7, 8, & 9:** Thurs., Jan. 30, 2025 @ Noon, Claire City Community Center, Claire City, SD
- ▶ **Districts 4 & 5:** Mon., Feb 3, 2025 @ Noon, Big G's Pub & Grub, Beardsley, MN

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. ▶



NOTICE to Minnesota Members with Mercury Vapor Security (Yard) Lights

Under a newly passed law in Minnesota, new compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) with a screw base or a bayonet base may no longer be sold or offered for sale in Minnesota after 2024. This ban also includes mercury vapor bulbs. (This ban does not include sodium vapor or LED bulbs.) This new law may affect many of our Minnesota members who have mercury vapor security (yard) lights.

Effective January 1, 2025, Traverse Electric can no longer repair mercury vapor security lights located in Minnesota that require a new mercury vapor bulb. We can still repair a mercury vapor light if it only needs a new photo eye and not a new bulb.

Traverse Electric sells and installs 150 Watt LED Lights and 100 Watt High Pressure Sodium lights. The LED lights have a ten (10) year warranty on the light fixture and a five (5) year warranty on the photo eye and give a crisp white light. The High Pressure Sodium lights give off an amber (yellowish) light.

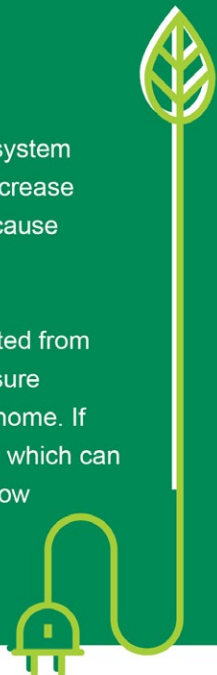
If you require a new light, a Traverse Electric employee will contact you to go over your options and the costs for a new light. ▶

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and increase pressure in the ductwork, which can cause cracks and leaks to form.

Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes or other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home. If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture.

Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)



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.

November 2024 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The November regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 9 AM.

Absent: Frisch.

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

President Diekmann called the meeting to order.

The agenda was approved.

MN House Representative Jeff Backer gave a legislative update.

Alison Deelstra from CRC reviewed key 2023 KRTA ratios and trends.

Executed the RUS loan mortgage documents.

The minutes of the October regular board meeting were approved.

The October check register was approved.

Discussed the East River and Basin Electric video reports, and the NRECA training video: Finding the Right Level of Transparency for Your Co-op and What Boards Need to Consider in Setting Rates.

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:

- ▶ October 31, 2024 accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
- ▶ A list of new members was reviewed.
- ▶ Reviewed the Cooperative's 2024 and proposed 2025 property taxes.

- ▶ Update on Electrical Dept. and Generator Program.
- ▶ East River power bill and Basin's financial reports reviewed.

Reviewed and approved the October 2024 Financial Report.

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

- ▶ Provided a crew update.
- ▶ Reviewed upcoming and completed projects.
- ▶ Reported on 2025 contracted tree trimming.
- ▶ Our contractors continue to plow cable.
- ▶ Reviewed our Safety Program.
- ▶ Outages were reviewed.

Reviewed and approved the 2025 Budget. Reviewed and approved 2025 electric rates.

Approved capital credit retirements to estates in 2024 and the general retirement of capital credits in December 2024.

Reviewed and approved bad debt write-offs.

Received an update on the new facility and window condensation issue.

Received an update on the old properties for sale.

Reviewed the district meetings schedule for the end of January/beginning of February.

Plans for our March 20, 2025 Annual Meeting were discussed.

Approved the lease of farmland for 2025.

Approved sending one youth to the Washington DC Youth Tour in June 2025.

Selected SDREA Annual Meeting voting delegates.

Tabled selecting CRC voting delegates until December meeting.

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 November 2024 Financials

	Nov 2023	Nov 2024	YTD 2024
Total Revenue	\$1,425,305.63	\$1,124,445.68	\$12,238,410.96
Cost of Power	\$774,995.14	\$703,236.71	\$7,567,855.04
Total Cost of Service	\$1,098,487.87	\$1,103,383.84	\$12,200,605.77
Operating Margins	\$326,817.76	\$21,061.84	\$37,805.19
Total Margins	\$330,462.53	\$35,716.76	\$284,502.04
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased	14,535,073	11,891,197	124,234,849
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales	13,865,068	11,243,038	118,482,388
Line Loss	4%	5%	4%