



The Season of Giving

JEREMY HUHNSTOCK | General Manager

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Mark Your Calendar

Nov 11 Veteran's Day,
Office Closed

Nov 15 Electric Bills Due

Nov 25 Board Meeting

Nov 27 & 28 . . . Thanksgiving
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 December 1st and receive a **\$10 bill credit**.

As the holiday season approaches and the air turns crisp, we're reminded that this truly is the season of giving. It's a time for gratitude, generosity and looking out for one another—and at Traverse Electric Cooperative, that's something we take to heart year-round.

You've probably heard us talk about our concern for community. It's not just a nice phrase—it's one of the seven cooperative principles that makes electric cooperatives like ours different from other utilities. We're not just here to keep the lights on (though of course, we're always working hard to do that). We're here to make life better for the people we serve—our members, our neighbors and our friends.

Over the years, we've faced challenges together, and every time, our co-op family has stepped up. We've come together to support those in need, to keep our community strong and to build something better for the future. That spirit of generosity is never more evident than during the holiday season.

Take our Unclaimed Patronage Capital program, for example. Patronage capital that goes unclaimed is donated to non-profits throughout our service territory. Past donations have been donated to volunteer fire departments, Someplace Safe, Historical Societies (museums), 4H programs, and volunteer ambulance services.

We're also proud to support local students through the Youth Tour program, where we send some of our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., to see democracy in action and dream big about their futures. That's giving in the most meaningful way—by investing in tomorrow's leaders.

And because we care deeply about safety, we also spend time visiting schools throughout the communities we serve, holding demonstrations and teaching folks of all ages how to stay safe around electricity. We believe knowledge is a gift too—and we love sharing it.

You'll also find our team out in the community beyond work—coaching youth sports, volunteering at local events, serving on non-profit boards, and partnering with our Chamber of Commerce to keep our local economy strong. Because when you're part of a co-op, giving back isn't a requirement—it's just what you do. Our employees have participated in Trunk or Treat, Job Fairs, and Traverse County Family Fun Night. Another way Traverse Electric has supported our local schools & sports programs is by buying ad space on banners, radio, and yearbooks.

While the holiday season is a festive time, we understand these can be tough times for many. If you need advice on saving energy to reduce your energy bills, want to explore payment plan options, or you simply have questions—please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to help, not just during the holiday season, but all year long.

At Traverse Electric Cooperative, we believe concern for community is more than a value—it's the heart of who we are. And during this season of giving, we're especially grateful to be part of such a caring, generous community.

From all of us at Traverse Electric Cooperative, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful, safe and bright holiday season. Also, good luck fellow hunters!

Co-ops in the Classroom

Jen Gross, Education and Outreach Coordinator from East River Electric Power Cooperative, Madison, SD, presented "Co-ops in the Classroom" to educate local elementary school students on how electricity works and the importance of safety through hands-on demonstrations.

She visited Wheaton Area Schools, Browns Valley School, Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley School, and the Herman-Norcross School in September. Students used a Pedal Power Bicycle generator to provide energy to turn a light bulb on, and used a Van de Graaff generator to demonstrate the movement of electrons to create static.



Standby Generator Systems

Together We Save Energy and Money



Benefits of Owning A Generator System

Our standby power systems are designed to provide peace of mind and keep your life uninterrupted. Lights stay on, the sump pump keeps running, and your furnace or AC keeps your family comfortable.

- ⦿ Standby generator system intelligently powers your whole house, automatically powering what you need when you need it most.
- ⦿ Generator automatically starts when the power goes out.
- ⦿ Sold and installed by Traverse Electric Cooperative.
- ⦿ Financing is available.
- ⦿ From Briggs & Stratton – The Power Experts!
- ⦿ Runs on natural gas or LP (provided by others).



STANDBY GENERATORS

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're planning to purchase electronic gifts this holiday season, look for the ENERGY STAR® label, which indicates higher energy efficiency performance. Electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating are up to 25% more efficient than standard products.

This holiday season, give the gift of energy savings with ENERGY STAR®-rated electronics and equipment.

Source: energystar.gov

NOTICE: Idle Services

An idle service location is a disconnected location where the owner is no longer paying the minimum monthly facility fee, but Traverse Electric still has equipment installed including transformers, poles, and wire.

After attempts to notify the property owners regarding the idle services on their property by mail with no response from the property owners, Traverse Electric will remove its equipment feeding the inactive service to include poles, wire, and the transformer if the property #3654 owner does not contact our office to

establish electric service again and pay the monthly minimum fee. If the equipment is removed, the property owner will be responsible to pay applicable line constructions costs if a request is made to bring electric service back to that location in the future.

Per Board Policy 300: Idle Services:

The Cooperative may, at its discretion, retire any electrical distribution line or service that has been disconnected for two years or more, providing:

a). The last connected consumer or known owner has been notified by mail and a list to be published in

the Cooperative Connections of the Cooperative's intention to retire the service.

Once the list below is published in this newsletter, the property owner has until **December 31, 2025** to contact our office to energize the service or pay an idle service fee equal to the monthly facility fee to keep the distribution line and equipment in place. Below is the list of known property owners and locations of the services that Traverse Electric plans to retire any time after December 31, 2025 without further notice. 📌

Property Owner Name	Last Known Mailing Address	Map Location	County	Township	Sec	Qtr	Idle Date
Donald Dombrowski	5060 County Rd 4, Browns Valley, MN	38-28-04	Traverse	Folsom	28	SW	11/13/18
Donald Dombrowski	5060 County Rd 4, Browns Valley, MN	38-28-4B	Traverse	Folsom	28	SW	11/13/18



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.

September 2025 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

- The September regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, September 30, 2025 at 8 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 August regular board meeting were approved.
- The August check register was approved.
- Discussed the Basin Electric video report and the NRECA training video: *Appraising and Compensating the CEO*.
- Marks and Thoennes reported on the East River Annual Meeting.
- 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:
 - ◊ August 31, 2025 accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
 - ◊ A list of new members was reviewed.
 - ◊ NISC software conversion update.
 - ◊ Update on Electrical Dept. and Generator Program.
 - ◊ East River power bill and Basin's financial reports reviewed.
- Reviewed and approved the August 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.
 - ◊ Lightning strikes continue to cause outages.
 - ◊ Reported that the anticipated delivery of our new line truck is now April 2026.
 - ◊ Reviewed our Safety Program.
 - ◊ Outages were reviewed.
- Update provided for East River demand load control and load management receiver changes.
- Approved the donation of SD and MN unclaimed capital credits to non-profit charitable Ambulance/First Responder Services in our service territory.
- Discussed the 2026 Budget.
- A new journeyman lineman will start on October 27.
- Reviewed upcoming meetings and attendees.
- Meeting adjourned. ▶

TEC August 2025 Financials

	August 2024	August 2025	YTD 2025
Total Revenue.	\$1,100,124.15 . . .	\$1,226,148.08 . . .	\$9,987,342.46
Cost of Power.	\$684,949.63 . . .	\$726,303.96 . . .	\$5,738,179.45
Total Cost of Service.	\$1,110,352.32 . . .	\$1,071,303.24 . . .	\$9,314,603.77
Operating Margins	\$(10,228.17) . . .	\$154,844.84 . . .	\$672,738.69
Total Margins	\$6,322.26 . . .	\$158,321.02 . . .	\$1,074,841.72
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased	10,461,882 . . .	10,725,016 . . .	89,400,537
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales . . .	9,971,795 . . .	10,247,645 . . .	85,280,962
Line Loss.	.5%	4%	4%

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
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.