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## Mark Your Calendar

Dec 15 . . . . . Electric Bills Due

Dec 24 & 25 . . Office Closed

Dec 31 . . . . . Board 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**.



## Balancing Electricity Supply & Demand

JEREMY HUHNSTOCK  
General Manager

Electricity is essential for nearly every aspect of daily life—so essential that we rarely think about how it's produced and delivered to our homes. You might be surprised to learn that behind the scenes, a network of experts is working daily (and even by the minute) to anticipate how much electricity you need before you even use it.

We're all connected to the electric grid, so ensuring the right amount of electricity for all involves a complex process of forecasting energy demand, planning for capacity and securing enough supply to meet Americans' needs.

### Powerful sources

First, electricity must be generated at a power plant using either traditional sources, such as coal, natural gas or nuclear energy, or from renewable sources, such as solar, wind or hydropower.

At Traverse Electric Cooperative, we work closely with East River & Basin Electric Cooperatives, our local wholesale power partners, to secure enough electricity for our communities, using a diverse mix of energy sources to generate the power we deliver to your home or business. By maintaining a diverse energy mix or "All of the Above Strategy"—coal, natural gas, wind, solar, and hydropower—Basin Electric Cooperative has options to ensure reliable power at a competitive cost.

On a larger scale, across the country, electricity supply and demand are managed through a market that includes

long-term planning agreements, where electricity is bought and sold just like other common goods and services. Because TEC works with our wholesale power partner, which is also a cooperative, we are able to pool resources and expertise to deliver affordable power to our local communities.

Electricity supply changes throughout the day because demand fluctuates based on consumers' needs. For example, TEC knows that we need to ensure more electricity in the mornings when you're starting your day, and in the evenings when you're cooking dinner, running appliances and watching TV. Demand also increases when weather patterns change, such as extremely warm or cold temperatures.

### Managing supply and demand across the grid

Across the country, other electric utilities are managing the same task of balancing supply and demand, which is why we have a larger network of key players in place to ensure enough power is delivered across the grid.

In most cases, the amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to specific areas are coordinated and monitored by regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs). In other areas, individual electric utilities perform these tasks.

RTOs, ISOs and electric utilities act as air traffic controllers for the electric

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# 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 and October. 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.

## Balancing Electricity Supply & Demand

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grid. They forecast when you, your neighbors and communities across a large region will need more power. These organizations take measured steps to ensure there’s enough supply to meet demand. Basin Electric Cooperative is part of Southwest Power Pool (SPP), which serves the west-central United States and portions of Canada.

### Looking ahead

As the energy sector undergoes rapid change, it’s important for all consumers to understand the basics of electricity supply and demand.

Electricity use in the U.S. is expected to rise to record highs this year and next, with the demand for electricity expected to at least double by 2050. At the same time, energy policies are pushing the early retirement of always-available generation sources, which will undoubtedly compromise reliable electricity.

TEC remains committed to providing affordable, reliable energy to the members we serve. That’s why we are preparing now for increased demand and other challenges that could compromise our local electric supply. Basin Electric Cooperative has been adding wind and solar generation to try and curb some of the fluctuations in demand during the daytime hours. Wind will still generate after the sun goes down, but the solar production drops off. Basin has committed to the always available production by stating they will build a large natural gas plant by 2030. This always available generation will ensure that we will have enough electricity to meet our demands.

Managing the balancing act of electricity supply and demand is a complex job, which is why we have a network of utilities, power plant operators and energy traffic managers in place to direct the electricity we need and keep the electric grid balanced.

From all of us at Traverse Electric Cooperative, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! 🎄



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Area rugs are an easy, cost-effective solution to cold floors. Adding area rugs to hard-surface flooring can add warmth to any room and keep your feet cozy on cold winter days.

Choose rugs made from wool or other natural fibers and

plush or high-pile textures for the most insulation. Place rugs in areas where you need additional warmth, like the foot of a bed or under a coffee table. Area rugs can enhance the aesthetic of your home and keep you cozier.

~ NRECA’s Straight Talk

# 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.

## Trick or Treat!

Traverse Electric's Tayden (left) and Isaac (right) dressed up as a bottle of hot sauce and a lobster for Wheaton Chamber of Commerce's Trunk or Treat on October 31. They didn't do any tricks, but plenty of treats were handed out!



#1901



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://sd.gov)), Pierre, SD. 800-233-8503. Email: [DSSHeat@state.sd.us](mailto:DSSHeat@state.sd.us).



# October 2024 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The October regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, October 29, 2024 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 September regular board meeting were approved.

The September check register was approved.

Star Energy's, Kristi Robinson, presented the proposed 2025 rate adjustments.

Discussed the East River and Basin Electric video reports, and the NRECA training video: Member Elections.

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.

Lupkes gave the Office Manager's Report, which included:

- ▶ September 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 September 2024 Financial Report.

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

- ▶ Provided a crew update.
- ▶ Reviewed upcoming and completed projects.
- ▶ 1600 coded minor construction work order projects are complete.
- ▶ Our contractors will work on upgrading 5 miles of underground coming out of the Dumont sub this Fall.
- ▶ Federated Insurance completed its annual review and inspection in October.
- ▶ Reviewed our Safety Program.
- ▶ Outages were reviewed.

Received an update on the new facility.

Received an update on the old properties for sale.

Discussed District Meetings to be scheduled for the end of January/ beginning of February.

Reviewed Policy 115.

Approved the 2023 990.

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](http://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 October 2024 Financials

	Oct 2023	Oct 2024	YTD 2024
Total Revenue	\$1,389,612.83	\$1,436,158.47	\$11,113,965.28
Cost of Power	\$885,454.45	\$857,570.21	\$6,864,618.33
Total Cost of Service	\$1,242,392.49	\$1,246,719.44	\$11,097,221.93
Operating Margins	\$147,220.34	\$189,439.03	\$16,743.35
Total Margins	\$172,005.35	\$210,696.85	\$248,785.28
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased	14,339,805	13,984,847	112,343,652
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales	13,612,923	13,376,430	107,239,350
Line Loss	5%	4%	4%