



This Issue

- Capital Credit Checks p2
- Truck For Sale p3
- Board Report p4



Mark Your Calendar

- Feb 15 ... Scholarship Application Deadline
- Feb 15 Washington DC Youth Tour Essay Deadline
- Feb 15 Electric Bills Due
- Feb 28 Board Meeting
- March 23 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 February 1st and you will get a **\$10 bill credit**.

Last month's hidden account number was found by Jerome Holker for a \$10 bill credit! Congratulations, Jerome!



Beat the Peak

MANAGER'S COLUMN

DALE SCHWAGEL

Interim General Manager

If you look around your home, you likely have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity to function. At the same time, as demand for electricity rises, Traverse Electric must deliver an uninterrupted 24/7 power supply--regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.

As you would expect based on your family's habits, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand. Traverse Electric must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all members during times of highest energy use or "peak hours." These peak times are typically in the morning as people start their day and in the evening as people return to their homes.

What you may not know is that electric utilities including Traverse Electric, typically pay more for electricity--either from a power plant or from another utility with excess power--during those morning

and evening "energy rush hours." In addition, the demand for electricity is even higher when it's especially cold outside, when heating systems must run longer to warm our homes.

If the "peak times" concept is a bit puzzling, here's an easy way to think about it, and it's similar to a major concert. We know costs go up when there is strong demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand. When a lot of people want the same thing, it's more expensive. When they don't, it's cheaper--like a bargain matinee or an "early bird" special at a restaurant.

During peak periods when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, we encourage you to take simple steps to save energy, such as turning your thermostat down a few notches, turning off unnecessary lights and waiting to use large appliances during off-peak times.

You can also save energy by plugging electronics and equipment

Continued on page 2

IMPORTANT DATES

Mark your calendar for Traverse Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting on March 23, 2023 at Wheaton High School and also both Washington DC Youth Tour Essay and Scholarship deadlines due on Feb 15, 2023.



Beat the Peak *continued*

such as computers, printers and TVs into a power strip, then turn it off at the switch during peak hours. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings to sync up with off-peak periods. When we all work together to reduce energy use during periods of high electricity demand, we can relieve pressure on the grid and save a little money along the way.

Another benefit of this time-of-use approach to electricity use allows greater control over your bill. Reducing the peak impacts the power-supply cost to every co-op member. This is particularly noticeable as energy costs have risen across the U.S. Collectively, everyone conserving energy and making small changes can truly make a difference.

Remember, taking simple steps to save energy throughout the day and shifting energy intensive chores to off-peak hours is a smart choice for you and our community. ▶

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Insulating your electric water heater can reduce standby heat loss by 25% to 45%, saving you 7% to 16% on annual water heating costs.

The Dept. of Energy rates this project as medium difficulty, meaning most homeowners can tackle this project on their own. You can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets for about \$20 at most home improvement stores. Visit energy.gov for project tips and additional considerations.

Source: energy.gov




2022 CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS INVALID ADDRESS LIST

Name	Address	Yrs in Service
Timothy Adams	Sisseton SD	2004-2012
Darren & Stephanie Ammons	Tintah MN	2007-2010
Mary Ann Arndt	Beardsley MN	2002-2016
Leslie & Jamie Broz Aul	Pierre SD	2004-2014
Darlene Bertram	Herman MN	1973-2015
Richard Blanchard	Morris MN	2006-2008
Marcus Cloud	Sisseton SD	2002-2013
Peter J Dahl	Chanhassen MN	2004-2016
Jeanne Dusing	Browns Valley MN	1975-2006
Daniel Erickson	Breckenridge MN	2007-2010
Danny Farmer	Anderson TX	2006-2012
Kelly Garoutte	Morris MN	2003-2014
Leo Greseth	Lidgerwood ND	2001-2014
Heart O'Lakes Realty	Frazee MN	2006-2007
Jobeth Heminger	Claire City SD	2007
James Hennen	Wheaton MN	2016-2018
Jeanne Huber	Sisseton SD	2005-2017
Chris Huber	Wheaton MN	2005-2017
Jessica Jacobs	Rosholt SD	2004-2006
Evert A Johnson	Lidgerwood ND	2006-2020
Dallas Koplin	Campbell MN	2007-2009
Vanessa Lafromboise	Browns Valley MN	2006-2010

Name	Address	Yrs in Service
Leland D Larsen	New Effington SD	2011-2021
Chad Mahrer	Wheaton MN	2006-2011
Duncan McClellan	St Cloud MN	2006-2009
Bernard Ohnstad	Argusville ND	2005-2006
Brian Renville Estate	Sisseton SD	2005-2007
Barb Rettig	Fairmount ND	2002-2010
RLD Enterprises - Dick Dillon	Paynesville MN	2007-2013
Clayton Ross	Browns Valley MN	2006-2007
Duane Sanow	Montevideo MN	2004-2009
Sara Sauer	Sartell MN	2007
Dave Schmit	Eden Prairie MN	2002-2013
Stephen J Schulte	Sioux Falls SD	2005-2015
Anthony & Lynae Serr	Browns Valley MN	2004-2012
Jeffrey G Shepherd	Rosholt SD	1990-2021
Mike Simon	Sisseton SD	2005-2006
Colleen Sparby-Davis	Scottsdale AZ	2006-2011
Shawn P Stickland	Claire City SD	2006-2010
Arnold Timm	Shawnee OK	2002-2012
John Todd	Herman MN	1992-2012
Garth & Jeannie Whiddon	Webster SD	2003-2020
Oleta A Willis	Bryant SD	2007-2008
Robert Wulfekuhle	Henning MN	1999-2014
Theresa Yares	Minneapolis MN	2006-2011



Facility Update

Progress continues with the new headquarters. The new facility is scheduled for completion by June 1. We will continue to provide updates in the future. 



FOR SALE:

2008 F-350 6.4 L Power Stroke V8 Turbo Diesel, 4x4, with steel dump box, 183,040 miles. This vehicle has been owned and maintained by Traverse Electric. Vehicle sold as is with no warranty.

Please contact Dale Schwagel at 320-563-1060 with any questions about the vehicle. Please submit your bid in a sealed envelope, marked:

2008 F-350 Bid to
Traverse Electric Co-op, Inc.,
PO Box 66, Wheaton, MN 56296

by February 21, 2023. Minimum bid is \$10,900.



December 2022 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The December regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, December 27, 2022 at 9 AM. Absent: None.

Staff members present were Interim General Manager 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. Approved resolution for \$10,738,000 RUS Treasury Rate loan and signed mortgage documents.

Executive session to discuss the general manager search.

Discussed the East River and Basin video reports.

Diekmann gave an East River Board Report.

Schwagel 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:

- ▶ November 30, 2022 accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
- ▶ A list of new members was reviewed.
- ▶ Update on Electrical Dept. and Generator Program.
- ▶ Discussed RUS financing interest rates.
- ▶ Basin power bill credit discussed.
- ▶ Basin capital credit retirement discussed.
- ▶ Sue Wilts will retire in 2023.

- ▶ East River power bill and Basin's financial reports reviewed.

Reviewed and approved the November 2022 Financial Report.

Schwagel gave the Operations Report. Items discussed included:

- ▶ Provided a crew update.
- ▶ Reviewed upcoming and completed projects.
- ▶ Tony Bruns is leaving Traverse Electric.
- ▶ An amendment to our construction work plan for 3 miles of underground was approved.
- ▶ We applied for a grant for \$400,000 to replace OCRs and sectionalizing equipment.
- ▶ No poles were lost in the recent SD ice events and outages.
- ▶ We will sell our 2008 Ford F-350 by sealed bids.
- ▶ Reviewed our Safety Program.
- ▶ Outages were reviewed.

Received an update on the new facility and construction progress.

Discussed long-term financing options and interest rates.

RUS approved our revenue deferral plan.

Reviewed and approved the 2023 price list for charges for line crews and electricians.

Approved a revision to Policy 505.

Approved a revision to Policy 300.

Reviewed the January 2023 District Meetings schedule.

Reported that FEMA reimbursed us for May 12th storm costs.

Reviewed upcoming meetings and attendees.

Meeting adjourned. ▶

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Doug Diekmann, Beardsley, MN
 Vice-President: Tom Frisch, Dumont, MN
 Secretary: Mark Pearson, Rosholt, SD
 Treasurer: Michael Marks, Norcross, MN
 Michael Gaulrapp, Breckenridge, MN
 Terry Monson, Veblen, SD
 Matthew Glynn, Sisseton, SD
 Bradley Rudolph, Dumont, MN
 Stacy Ehlers, Wheaton, MN

OFFICE PERSONNEL

Dale Schwagel – Interim General Manager
 Karen Lupkes – Office Manager
 Dale Schwagel – Operations Manager
 Melissa Przymus – Accountant
 Susan Wilts – Billing Clerk

OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

Richard Davis – Foreman
 Lonnie Tekrony – Journeyman Lineworker
 Joe Gahlon – Journeyman Lineworker
 Austin Reinke – Journeyman Lineworker
 Golden Helberg – Journeyman Lineworker
 Justin Lundblad – Apprentice Lineworker
 Chris Falk – Facility/Staking Technician

INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Dale Schwagel
 Cell: 320-808-6176 | Direct: 320-563-1060
 dschwagel@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
 Rodney Schaffer 701-235-2840
 Wilkin County

NORTH DAKOTA

Mark Moderow 701-226-3779

SOUTH DAKOTA

Dan Urban 605-222-0143
 Marshall County Roberts County

**In case of a power outage, call
 (800) 927-5443**

1618 Broadway
 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.

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 Financials

	Dec. 2021	Dec. 2022	YTD 2022
Total Revenue	\$1,179,454.21	\$767,683.35	\$12,181,690.76
Cost of Power	\$635,214.40	\$739,969.45	\$7,363,385.76
Total Cost of Service	\$956,173.13	\$1,106,401.73	\$11,376,252.87
Operating Margins	\$223,281.08	\$(338,718.38)	\$805,437.89
Total Margins	\$737,000.90	\$681,438.43	\$1,948,350.37
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased	13,011,690	13,006,479	136,614,648
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales	12,304,004	12,372,497	130,234,633
Line Loss	5%	4%	4%