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Mark Your Calendar

- Feb 15 Electric Bills Due
- Feb 15 Youth Tour Essays Due
- Feb 15 Scholarship Applications Due
- Feb 27 Board Meeting
- March 21. 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 January 1st and you will get a **\$10 bill credit**.

Also, congratulations to **Roger Pederson** for finding his account number in the last issue and received a \$10 bill credit.



Reliable Power for Today—and Tomorrow

MANAGER'S COLUMN

JEREMY HUHNSTOCK
General Manager

Ring in a new year sparks a sense of renewed hope and optimism about the future. As the General Manager of Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc, it's a time to reflect on where we are and where we're going as a cooperative. The year 2023 was a lot of change & challenges that will affect the electric industry for years to come; locally, statewide, and nationally.

Locally, on the Minnesota side of our territory, landowners and members of the community are feeling pressure from renewable energy companies like Tenaska, Engie, and Terna Energy to install wind and/or solar on their property. These renewable energy companies are looking in this area because of the proposed expansion of a large transmission line that will be built between Big Stone City and Alexandria. Statewide, the passing of the Clean Energy by 2040 bill will change the outlook on energy in Minnesota and South Dakota drastically in the near future. While the bill was passed in Minnesota TEC buys our energy from East River Electric Cooperative in Madison, SD. Based on current permitting and regulatory issues, it will be tough for Minnesota to be able to build enough renewable generation or transmission by 2040 to support the energy demands that are needed to have reliable electricity, so they will rely on what are called

RECs or Renewable Energy Credits. A REC is issued when one megawatt hour of renewable energy is generated and delivered to the electric grid. Some states like South Dakota have extra RECs, because they have more generation than demand. These extra RECs are sold in the market to other states or utilities, normally at a higher price than energy produced by fossil fuels. Nationwide, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has, at the request of the Biden Administration, announced proposed rules to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel generating plants and the closure of fossil fuel plants before the end-of-life expectancy for these plants.

Our team at Traverse Electric Cooperative is always looking ahead, and exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to powering—and empowering—our community at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

So how are we working to ensure reliable and affordable power while adapting to a changing energy landscape and our community's evolving needs?

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Reliability of Power

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One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity that keeps the lights on across our territory. You may not realize it, but TEC doesn't generate electricity. Instead, we purchase it from our energy provider, Basin Electric Cooperative & East River Electric Cooperative.

From there, we distribute it to homes and businesses throughout our community. These two electric cooperatives use the "All of the Above" strategy when it comes to producing electricity. Our current energy resource mix is currently made up of the combination in Figure 1.

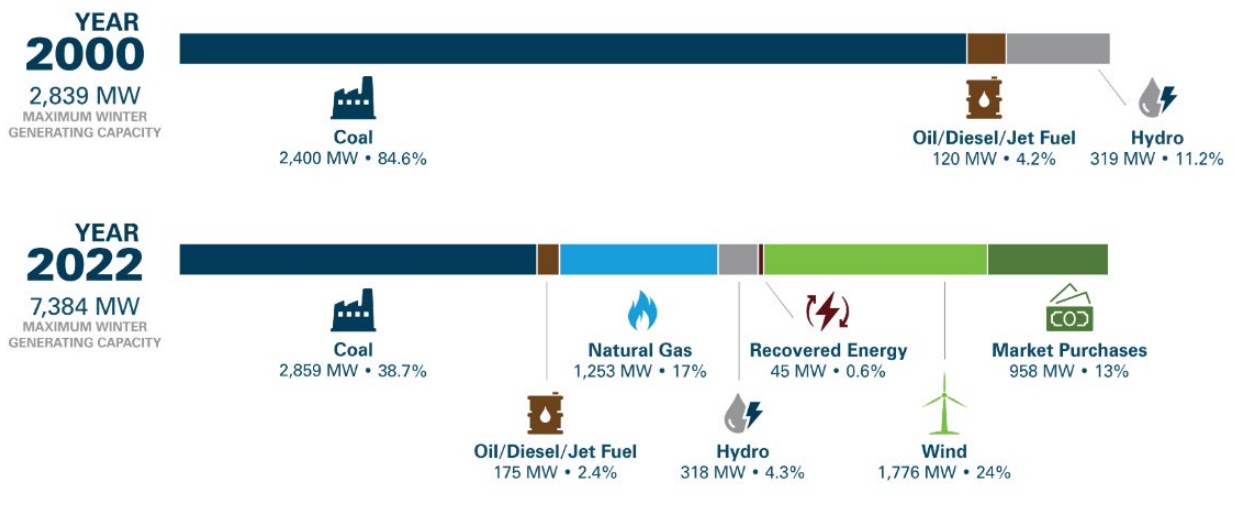


Figure 1. Basin Electric Cooperative Load Profile

We're increasingly using more electricity generated from renewable energy sources, but we still depend on a diverse energy mix to ensure reliable power that's available to our members whenever they need it.

In addition to managing a reliable energy mix or "All of the Above" strategy, TEC is using technology to enhance our local grid, limit service disruptions and improve outage response times.

Advanced metering technology, also known as AMI or "Smart Meters", enables two-way communication between the co-op and consumers. In the event of a power outage, AMI helps pinpoint the exact location of the outage and can even analyze damaged or tampered meters. AMI helps TEC save money with real-time data, and ultimately improves power reliability for our entire community.

As technology advancements become more accessible, we anticipate using advanced mapping software to better maintain the environment while providing more reliable service. Proactive tree trimming is another way we limit service disruptions. Scheduled trimming keeps power lines clear from overgrown limbs that are likely to fall. In 2024, the area around Sisseton is on the schedule to be trimmed. We are currently on an 8-year cycle for tree trimming.

One of the best methods for improving our services to you is monitoring trends and leading practices from other electric co-ops in Minnesota and across the country. Learning from other co-ops is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business model because for us, it's about cooperation, not competition.

As we turn our focus to 2024, TEC will continue working to provide the reliable, affordable electricity you expect and deserve—for today and tomorrow. ▀

2023 CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS INVALID ADDRESS LIST

Name	Address	Yrs in Service
Doreen Diekmann Abrahamson	Willmar MN	1991-2008
Jed Ahrenholz	Rosholt SD	2008
Darren & Stephanie Ammons	Tintah MN	2007-2010
Joey Bombeck	New Effington SD	2006-2011
Kayleen Bonczek	N St Paul MN	1987-2000
Richelle L Brennan	Chanhausen MN	1999
Paulette Cloud Estate	Sisseton SD	2006-2007
Country Wide Home Loans	Plano TX	2001-2002
Sampson Demarrias	Sisseton SD	1988-1993
Lynnette Egen	Watertown SD	1995
Judith Flett	Roseville MN	1999-2003
Gordon Gast	Campbell MN	1999-2008
Jared Goodsell Estate	Sisseton SD	2005-2007
David Haaland	Wheaton MN	2000-2010

Name	Address	Yrs in Service
Thomas & Barbara Hasbrouck	Sartell MN	1982-1991
Owen Hillberg	Colorado Springs CO	1987-1993
Roger Hom	Forman ND	1994-2002
Curt & Sandi Hove	Moorhead MN	2002
Claudia Keeble	Browns Valley MN	1993
Jillisa Lesmann	Wyndmere ND	2007-2008
Sean Murphy	Browns Valley MN	2008-2010
Francis Nebben	Clinton MN	1999-2010
Margaret Pirmantgen	Sisseton SD	1985-2004
Dale Ritzschke	St Cloud MN	2003-2007
Dan Sauve	Bagley MN	1996
Judy Simons	Lansing MI	1999-2012
Richard Wadleigh	Sisseton SD	2008-2010
Douglas & Joyce Wilson	Kimball MN	1989-1991



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?"

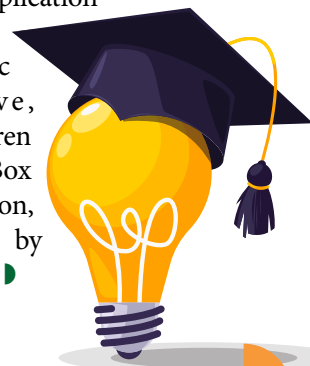
All essays must be typed and include a cover sheet that states the title of the essay, the entrant's name and address, name of parent or guardian, and the name of your school. Applicants should be a dependent of a Traverse Electric member and a high school junior or senior or at least age 16. Essay deadline is February 15, 2024.

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. 15, 2024. ▶



#3253

December 2023 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The December regular board meeting was held on Friday, December 22, 2023 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.

Diekmann gave an East River Board Report.

Monson 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.

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

- ▶ November 30, 2023 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.
- ▶ Reported on RECs sold in the Basin

Marketing Pool.

- ▶ Reported that we received a capital credit retirement from Basin Electric for 2008 capital credits.

Reviewed and approved the November 2023 Financial Report.

Schwagel presented the Operations Report per written report. Items discussed included:

- ▶ Provided a crew update.
- ▶ Reviewed upcoming and completed projects.
- ▶ Plowing projects are finished for the season due to frost concerns.
- ▶ The RUS System Operations and Maintenance Review was completed.
- ▶ Updates to our Hold Harmless Agreement are needed to comply with law changes.
- ▶ Reviewed our Safety Program.
- ▶ Outages were reviewed.

Received an update on the new facility.

Received an update on the old properties for sale.

Approved revisions to Policy 315.

Approved revisions to Policy 307.

Approved opening a new Construction Fund Trustee Account at FM Bank.

Reviewed the District Meetings Schedule.

Approved updates to the Disaster Plan.

Selected CRC voting delegates.

Approved revisions to Policy 505.

Approved revisions to Policy 300

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
 Justin Lundblad – Apprentice Lineworker
 Isaac Callens – Apprentice 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
 Rodney Schaffer 701-235-2840
 Wilkin County

NORTH DAKOTA

Mark Moderow 701-226-3779
 Richland County

SOUTH DAKOTA

Dan Urban 605-222-0143
 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.

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 2022	Dec 2023	YTD 2023
Total Revenue	\$767,683.35	\$1,211,013.10	\$13,196,324.43
Cost of Power	\$739,969.45	\$687,863.75	\$7,833,664.48
Total Cost of Service	\$1,106,401.73	\$1,139,794.72	\$12,230,731.42
Operating Margins	\$(338,718.38)	\$71,218.38	\$965,593.01
Total Margins	\$681,438.43	\$892,535.93	\$2,057,392.91
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased	13,006,479	12,796,074	136,805,718
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales	12,372,497	12,138,745	130,279,409
Line Loss	4%	4%	4%