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Mark Your Calendar

July 4 Office Closed

July 15. Electric Bills Due

July 30 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.**



10 Things You Might Not Know About Power Restoration

JEREMY HUHNSTOCK
General Manager

Have you ever watched a video or TV show where a person is cooking a meal, then suddenly, they snap their fingers, and the meal is plated and ready to eat? That's called a jump cut.

While we wish we could "jump cut" from a power outage to power restoration, it can often take a lot more effort and people to make it happen.

As the general manager of Traverse Electric, I'm accustomed to members' questions about power outages and why it can take time to get the lights back on. Given our reliance on electricity, there's simply never a good time to be without it.

This month, I'd like to shed light on our restoration process to help our members understand what may be happening behind the scenes. Here are 10 things you might not know about restoration:

- 1. We need you.** When your power goes out, it might be just at your home or small section of a neighborhood. Our smart meters should notify us of an outage, but there is a chance we may not know about it, and no one has reported it. We rely on you to let us know if your power is out. Please call **1.800.927.5443** in the event of an outage.
- 2. Our employees might be affected too.** Because Traverse Electric is a local electric cooperative owned by the members we serve, our employees are local too. They are your neighbors,

friends and familiar community volunteers. When you're without power, our people might be too.

- 3. It's a team effort.** Every one of Traverse Electric's employees are working to get your power restored as soon as possible. When your power goes out, we all work together as quickly and safely as possible to get you back to normal.
- 4. We assess the situation first.** Every outage is different, and we don't know how dangerous it is or what equipment might need to be replaced. When responding to outages, we first need to see what happened, then figure out what materials we need and a plan for how to fix the problem(s) without compromising electric flow for the rest of our members.
- 5. Restoration is normally prioritized by the largest number of members we can get back on in the shortest amount of time.** Our crews focus on responding first to public safety issues and critical services. Then we complete work that impacts the largest of number of people first.
- 6. Our employees face many dangers.** Besides working around high voltage electricity, our crews are on alert for wild animals, weather elements, falling trees and fast-moving cars. (If you ever drive past one of our vehicles, please do so slowly.)

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Power Restoration

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- 7. Flickering lights are a good thing.** Some folks mistake flickering lights for outages, but these “blinks” are important because they indicate our equipment worked and prevented a possible outage likely caused by wayward animals or stray tree limbs on the lines.
- 8. You need a backup plan.** We do our best to help those who need it, but if you depend on electricity for life support purposes, you must have a back-up plan—remember, we don’t always know how long restoration efforts will take. Traverse Electric offers Briggs & Stratton generators as a backup way to power your home. Please give the office a call, if you would like one installed.
- 9. Our employees have to plan, rest, and eat.** Our crews work long hard hours during outages and need to take time for meals and rest just like everyone else. At some points, our crews will need

to leave the area to get the equipment they need to finish restoring the power.

- 10. Sometimes it’s a waiting game.** Our portion of the power grid is connected to other electric utilities, and we maintain positive relationships with power providers interconnected to our system like Ottertail Power and East River Electric Cooperative. If our outage is due to an issue from their feed into our system, we must let them do their repairs and be mindful of what they’re going through to fix it.

We do our best to avoid power disruptions, but they are inevitable from time to time. If the lights go out, know that your co-op team is working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power.

I can’t believe this is the July issue already! I hope everyone had a safe and happy 4th of July. ▶

COMMON CAUSES OF POWER OUTAGES

There is never a good time for the power to go out, but if it happens on a sunny day, you might be left wondering why. Here are the most common causes of a power outage.



WEATHER

High winds, snow and ice can cause tree limbs to fall on power lines. Other weather effects, like wildfires and lightning strikes, can cause major damage to equipment.



CRITTERS

Squirrels, birds, snakes and other animals can inadvertently contact power lines, causing short circuits and disruptions to electrical supply.



ACCIDENTS

Vehicles can crash into utility poles, bringing down power lines. Construction and excavation work can also result in disruptions to underground lines.



Scheduled MAINTENANCE

Occasionally, we plan outages to perform upgrades or repairs to parts of the local grid.

Pole Top Rescue Training

Recently our linemen participated in the annual bucket and pole top rescue training. This is an OSHA mandated safety training designed to evaluate each lineman on their ability to properly rescue an injured lineman. Each lineman must balance their skills with safety, climb a pole, and rescue a 185 pound training mannequin by securing the mannequin using ropes and pulleys and safely deliver it back to the ground. We hope that our linemen never have to use this skill, but if they do, the training is an opportunity to prepare if the need should ever arise. In addition to pole top rescue, linemen are also trained to rescue an injured lineman from the bucket and bucket controls. ▀



Pictured is apprentice lineman, Isaac Callens, demonstrating pole top rescue.



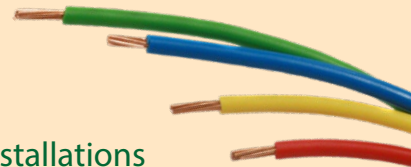
Linemen learn about bucket functions and how to conduct a bucket rescue.



Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc. Electrician Services

Installations • Repairs • Maintenance

- Agriculture
- Residential
- Commercial
- Generator Installations



*Master Electrician,
Steve Powers.*

*Journeyman Electrician,
Connor Bartz.*

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home! Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance. Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away.

For maximum energy savings, look for smart thermostat models with the ENERGY STAR® label.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Call **Steve Powers**
direct at **320-563-1057**
or call **320-808-9104**
to discuss your
electrical needs.

Licensed and bonded
in MN and SD.

May 2024 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The May regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 8 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.

The minutes of the April regular board meeting were approved.

The April check register was approved.

Discussed the East River and Basin Electric video reports, and the NRECA training video: Directors Communicating with Employees.

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:

- ▶ April 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.
- ▶ Annual audit update.
- ▶ Reported on East River's capital credit retirement.

Reviewed and approved the April 2024 Financial Report.

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

- ▶ Provided a crew update.
- ▶ Reviewed upcoming and completed projects.
- ▶ Reported updates on future digester services.
- ▶ Reported that two poles were replaced immediately after receiving inspection results.
- ▶ Reviewed our Safety Program.
- ▶ Outages were reviewed.

Received an update on the new facility.

Received an update on the old properties for sale.

Approved Policy 109 revisions.

Approved Policy 106 revisions.

Selected Diekmann and Marks as delegates for the East River District 1 Caucus.

Selected Marks to service on the 2024 East River Resolutions Committee.

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

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 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

Seth Warner 605-500-9020
 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, 7 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
 May 1-Sept 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 May 2024 Financials

	May 2023	May 2024	YTD 2024
Total Revenue	\$969,830.92 . . .	\$1,050,443.67 . .	\$5,453,602.51
Cost of Power	\$591,600.33	\$655,351.41 . . .	\$3,338,710.70
Total Cost of Service	\$968,382.08	\$1,195,069.70 . .	\$5,554,123.97
Operating Margins	\$1,448.84	\$(144,626.03) . .	\$(100,521.46)
Total Margins	\$26,888.31	\$(135,638.93) . .	\$10,797.40
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased	9,869,768	10,485,628	57,189,862
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales	9,424,187	10,040,735	54,581,286
Line Loss	4%	4%	4%