

# CURRENT ACTIVITIES



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
Website at [www.clearwater-polk.com](http://www.clearwater-polk.com)

## Would you know what to do if you are involved in a vehicle accident with downed power lines?



During the morning business hours on Monday, December 11th there was a vehicle accident that resulted in a truck hitting one of Clearwater-Polk Electric's power poles bringing down the 3-phase power lines and leaving the crossarm on the pole resting on the roof of the truck. If this happened to you, would you know what to do, and just as important, what *not* to do?

- First and foremost, ALWAYS consider the power line and the vehicle to be live and dangerous. If you are in the vehicle, stay in the vehicle and warn others to stay at least 35 ft back from the power line, and call 911.

- If you see smoke, or the vehicle is on fire, you will need to exit the vehicle immediately. When you begin to exit the vehicle, make sure you DO NOT touch the ground and the vehicle at the same time. Jump from the vehicle and land with both feet together.

Then, to move away from the vehicle, avoid lifting your feet from the ground by shuffling your feet, keeping them close together and touching. If you separate your feet too far, there could be significant differ-

ence in voltage between where one foot is than the other causing the electricity to flow up one leg and down the other, an electrocution that could kill you.

- If you can't move away by shuffling your feet, you can hop away making sure to keep your feet touching and landing together. Move at least 35 feet away from the vehicle and power line. If you are in a wet area, move farther away.

- Onlookers should never attempt to get close to a downed power line. Do not touch someone who is in direct or indirect contact with a downed power line, and never drive over a downed power line. One common reality that we all share is that we don't *really* know how we would react to a certain situation until experiencing it for ourselves. We may *think* we know how we would react, or maybe have a good idea based on our personality, but when it comes right down to it, we really do not know.

Through education and training, Clearwater-Polk will make every effort to help prepare both our cooperative and community members and their families (Harold Sweno) to act safely when faced with an electrical emergency like this vehicle and power line accident on December 11th. Understanding that to say things like "Stop and think before you act" or "Stay calm and don't panic" may be easier said than done. But bringing the message home is the first step.

If there is some electrical safety and education training that you would like Clearwater-Polk Electric's help with, please contact our office. We would be more than happy to help.

It is a gut-sinking feeling to think of how tragic this could have been, and such a great relief that everyone walked away from it with no serious physical injuries.

**New rates effective January 1, 2024.  
See page 2 for Rate Summary chart.**

--- OFFICE HOURS: 7:00 AM-4:30 PM... MONDAY-FRIDAY ---

**JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2024**

Phone **218-694-6241** - or - Toll Free **(888) 694-3833**



## Retail Rate Summary, effective January 1, 2024

Rate #	Description	Facility Charge	Energy Charge	Demand Charge
1	Rural Residential & Farm Service	\$37.00 \$43.00*	\$.115 / kWh Plus PCA	\$0.60 / kW
1C	Coincidental Demand – Single Phase	\$37.00 \$43.00*	\$.079 / kWh Demand Charge when applicable according to policy Plus PCA	
3	Three Phase Service	<del>\$100.00</del> \$110.00*	\$.12 / kWh Plus PCA	
3C	Coincidental Demand – Three Phase	<del>\$100.00</del> \$110.00*	\$.079 / kWh Demand Charge when applicable according to policy Plus PCA	
5	Large Power Rate	<del>\$100.00</del> \$110.00*	\$.082 / kWh	
6	Electric Heat not on Ripple Control	\$3.00	\$.115 / kWh Plus PCA	\$0.60 / kW
7	Electric Dual Heat Summer Electric Dual Heat (6/1 – 8/31)	\$3.00 \$3.00	\$.064 / kWh \$.074 / kWh	
8	Electric Heat-short term Summer Electric Dual Heat (6/1 - 8/31)	\$3.00 \$3.00	\$.078 / kWh \$.088 / kWh	
9	Electric Vehicle Charger (10/1-5/31) Electric Vehicle Charger (6/1 – 9/30)	\$3.00 \$3.00	\$.064 / kWh \$.074 / kWh	
12	Electric Water Heater on Ripple Receiver	N/A	\$3.00 credit per month	
	Electric Water Heater controlled with off-peak meter	N/A	No \$3.00 credit per month. Metered rate the same as member dual heat rate	
13	Security Lights Metered Unmetered	\$3.00 \$9.00	Same as Rate #1 N/A	

\* Based on transformer size, facility charge is equal to base facility charge plus \$1.25 per kVa over the base transformer size.



### TROUBLE CALLS

DURING OFFICE HOURS 7:00 am - 4:30 pm, Mon. - Fri.

CALL 694-6241 or 1-888-694-3833

AFTER HOURS OUTAGES CALL 1-877-881-7673



## CHEF'S CORNER

### Old Fashioned Pancakes

Karen Hopke - Bagley, MN

#### Ingredients:

- 1 egg
- 1-1/4 cups buttermilk
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1-1/4 cups flour
- 1 tsp sugar
- 2 T. shortening
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt

**Preparation:** Beat egg, add buttermilk and soda and beat again. Add rest of ingredients and beat again until smooth.

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS:

- Polk County Social Services**  
240 SW Cleveland Ave  
McIntosh, MN 56556 • 218-435-1585
- White Earth Energy Assistance**  
PO Box 418  
White Earth, MN 56591 • 218-473-2711
- Inter-County Community Council**  
207 Main St  
Oklee, MN 56742 • 888-778-4008
- Red Lake CAP Program**  
15533 Main Ave  
Red Lake, MN 56671 • (218)-679-1880
- MAHUBE-OTWA (For Hubbard Co.)**  
120 North Central  
Park Rapids, MN 56470-0229 • 218-732-7204
- Bi-County Cap**  
6603 Bemidji Ave N.  
Bemidji, MN 56601 • 800-332-7161

## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Greg Renner, *President*.....Shevlin  
 Cheryl Grover, *Vice President* .....Bagley  
 Harlan Highberg, *Treasurer*.....Bagley  
 Kim Solberg, *Secretary* .....Gonvick  
 Bill Lanners .....Shevlin  
 Dennis Engebretson .....Clearbrook  
 Betty Surdez .....Bagley  
 Deanna Lefebvre, *General Manager*

## SWAP SHOP

**RULES:** Ads for Clearwater-Polk Electric members only. Current Events newsletter will only be published every other month. Ads must be received by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the print month. Limit your ads to two items. No commercial ads, please.

### REMINDER -

"Free-For-Sale-Give Away- or Wanted ads can be posted in our newsletters for our members.

## YOU COULD WIN



To reward our faithful readers, one member's name will be drawn at random each month and placed somewhere in the newsletter. If you should find your name, let us know before the 15<sup>th</sup> and win \$25 off your next bill.

SIGN UP FOR  
 AUTO-PAY AND YOU  
 WILL BE ELIGIBLE  
 TO WIN

**\$25.00**

EACH MONTH WE DRAW  
 TWO MEMBER'S NAMES THAT HAVE  
 CHOSEN TO PAY BY AUTO-PAY. THEY  
 WILL RECEIVE A \$25.00 CREDIT  
 TOWARDS THEIR ELECTRIC BILL.

### CURRENT WINNERS

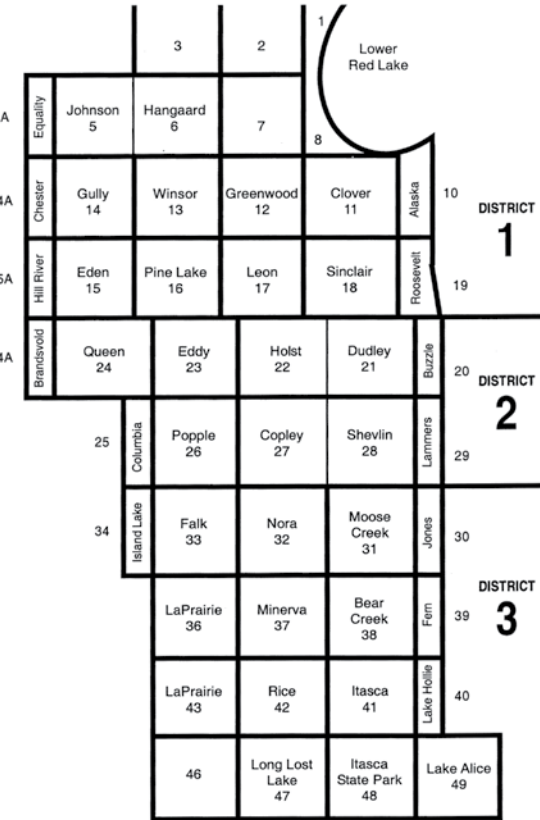
HJ RAINS  
 CHARLES KLEMZ  
 BRANDON M OLSON  
 DYLAN GOUDGE

# MAP OF DISTRICT 1, 2, & 3



**Clearwater-Polk**  
Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box O  
315 Main Ave N  
Bagley, MN 56621-1001  
Phone (218) 694-6241  
Toll-free 1-888-694-3833  
Fax (218) 694-6245



## PETITION FOR NOMINATION

The following Members wish to nominate [insert name] \_\_\_\_\_, for the (please check one)

3-year term director position for **District 2**

OR

3-year term director position for **District 3**

OR

1-year term director position for **District 3**

and to place such name on the ballot for the April 10, 2024 election, at the annual meeting of the Clearwater- Polk Electric Cooperative, in accordance with Article III, Section 8, of the bylaws.

	Printed Name	Signature	Account Number
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____

### WHAT IS REQUIRED OF A DIRECTOR?

The bylaws of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative establish certain qualifications that must be met in order to become a director. These are:

1. Be a member in good standing of the Cooperative, receiving electric service at the member’s primary residence in the district from which the director is elected prior to being nominated for director; provided, further that “primary residence” is defined as the residence that is the chief or main residence of the person and where the person actually lives for the most substantial portion of the year;

2. Not be, nor within three (3) years preceding a director candidate’s nomination have been, an employee of the Cooperative;

3. Not be, become, nor shall have been at any time during the five (5) years preceding a director candidate’s nomination, employed by a labor union which represents, or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employee of the Cooperative;

4. Not be a close relative of an employee or director, where as found in these bylaws “close relative” means any individual who is, either by blood, law, or marriage, including half, step, foster, and adoptive relations, a spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, or sibling, or principally resides in the same residence;

5. Not be employed by, materially affiliated with, or have a material financial interest in, any director, individual or entity which either is:

(i) directly or substantially competing with the Cooperative; or

(ii) selling goods and services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative; or

(iii) possessing a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative.

For purposes of this section, the terms “material” or “substantially” shall be interpreted as constituting a minimum of 5% of a member’s total hours of employment, sales, or income on an annual basis;

6. Not be or become the full-time employee or agent of, or be or become the full-time employer or principal or, another director;

7. Not be absent, without being excused by the

The Cooperative must receive the completed petition no later than close of business February 8, 2024. At the annual meeting scheduled for April 10, 2024, elections will be held for the following districts where Director’s terms are expiring:

**District 2**  
Greg Renner (3-year term)

**District 3**  
Bill Lanners (3-year term)

**District 3**  
Betty Surdez (1-year term)

Any 10 or more members who reside in the district, up for election, may nominate an eligible member for a director’s position. No member may be elected to a director position unless nominated in this manner. In the event of a joint Membership, only the signature of one member shall be acceptable.

board, from three (3) or more regular meetings of the board of directors during any twelve (12) month period;

8. Be only one, and not more than one, member of a joint membership; provided, however, that none shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless all shall meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth;

9. If a representative or agent of a member is not a natural person, i.e. a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or similar, then the representative or agent designated as a nominee for director shall be an individual residing within the external boundaries of the district from which (s)he is nominated; and

10. Never have been convicted of a felony.

# READY FOR RESPONSE

*With mild winter predicted, demand response program prepared for system/market anomalies*

In North Dakota and Minnesota, we can always appreciate a break from brutally cold and snowy winters. We might get that break this season – the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is predicting above-average temperatures and below-average precipitation for our region.

However, the winter climate isn't the only consideration behind the deployment of your cooperative's demand response (off-peak) program. The power supply experts at Minnkota Power Cooperative (our wholesale power provider) will be monitoring several factors throughout the winter season, but they anticipate the standard 150-200 hours of demand response.

"What actually happens depends largely on weather, but also on system and market conditions," explained Dan Trebil, Minnkota's energy supply manager. "While the energy market has softened somewhat from the previous two years, we are still experiencing significant volatility. Any unusual system

conditions, generator outages, icing on wind farms, etc., can adversely affect this."

Trebil says that at this time his team is not expecting any conditions wildly out of the ordinary, especially given the baseload nature of Minnkota's coal-based plants. The Milton R. Young Station and Coyote Station have proven time and time again to be reliable sources of electricity for the cooperatives and communities served through the Minnkota-Northern Municipal Power Agency Joint System, and they are well prepared for the upcoming winter season. With that being said, unplanned outages can occur at any time – even with wind generation.

"In the winter, the wind farms can experience anything from icing to cold-temperature and/or high-wind shutdowns. These types of generator outages can lead to an increased need for demand response, especially if they occur during extreme weather conditions," Trebil said.

Minnkota works hard to

keep any "control periods" to less than 200 collective hours a season to lessen the impact on member-consumers, while also garnering the value that the demand response program provides to homes, the co-op itself, and the entirety of the electric grid. In cases where Minnkota's systemwide load exceeds its generation capabilities, they can implement the demand response program to avoid purchasing high-priced energy from the regional grid. This not only balances energy across the grid, but also saves the cooperatives money, which allows them to keep electric rates stable year to year.

If you are a demand response program participant, now is the time to make sure your home is prepared for the winter. Be sure that all backup heat sources are functioning and that any necessary fuel sources (such as fuel oil or propane) are refilled. Demand response can activate without much notice, even during somewhat mild weather in your area.

*If you have questions about the demand response program, please call our office at 218-694-6241.*

# MANAGERS MESSAGE



**Deanna Lefebvre**  
General Manager

## Happy New Year!

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season and an opportunity to celebrate with your family and friends. One of my highlights of the year is to join co-op employees and directors, along with their significant others, in celebrating Christmas at our annual Christmas party. During this event we take the opportunity to do a small food drive for our local food shelf. This year about 22 lbs of food was donated along with \$402 cash. Thank you to all who donated. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you, but especially those who are struggling. Also, if you or anyone you know are having difficulty paying the electric bill, please contact our office right away. Good communication is necessary to help avoid getting disconnected for non-pay.



## 2024 Construction Plans

Currently Clearwater-Polk Electric's employees are working hard on wrapping up 2023 business with finalizing projects, taking inventory and getting set to move onto preparing for 2024 projects.

In 2024 the work plan projects include replacing 2.5 miles of single-phase overhead with 3-phase underground by Clearwater Lake. The crews will also be working the final phase of the overhead to underground project around Lake Alice. MNDOT is planning a road construction job in Leonard which is requiring Clearwater-Polk to make some changes. Crews will be converting overhead to underground and installing new streetlights.

Another big project will begin in the middle of 2024 and that is the installation of a new metering system. Clearwater-Polk Electric was disheartened to hear from our current vendor of our existing meter system that they decided to discontinue this system. This decision took us on a journey researching new metering systems that offer the options that we have today along with advanced technology that we can take advantage of in the future. This project is going to cost over \$1.2 million so to help spread out that cost, it is planned to be installed over a 3-year period. In 2024 the installation of the new meter system is planned to begin with the services that receive power from Clearwater-Polk's

Rice Lake substation. Members in this area will see Co-op employees changing out meters in late 2024.

## Rate Changes effective January 1, 2024

Over the last couple of years consumers have been experiencing the cost of

goods continuing to rise. These rising costs have affected your electric cooperative as well. As stated in earlier issues of your Current Activities newsletter, your cooperative has been keeping an eye on these costs. We absorbed these costs as long as we could, but unfortunately the need to make a rate change was necessary. At the November 29th board meeting, the board of directors approved a rate adjustment. Please see within this issue the chart listing the rates effective January 1, 2024.

## Project Tundra selected for U.S. Department of Energy funding

The initial concept for Project Tundra was formed in 2015, and over these last eight years it has overcome obstacles and has achieved several milestones. On December 14, 2023 the U.S. Department of Energy announced that it has selected Project Tundra as a recipient of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding through its Carbon Capture Demonstration Projects Program. The funding is under award negotiation for up to \$350 million. "We're grateful that the Department of Energy recognizes the importance of developing carbon capture systems and is positioning the United States to be a leader in the advancement of this critical clean energy technology," said Mac McLennan, Minnkota president and CEO.

"Innovation is our path forward through the energy transition. Project Tundra has the potential to help pave the way toward a future where electric grid reliability and environmental stewardship go hand in hand." The vision for Project Tundra is to advance next generation carbon capture and storage technologies at the Milton R. Young Station, a power generation facility located near Center, N.D. The project is being developed by Minnkota Power Cooperative, TC Energy, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and Kiewit and its affiliates.

Manager's Message continued on page 6...



# Operation Round-Up awards OVER \$9,000

The Clearwater-Polk Electric Trust awarded over \$9,000 in the latest chapter of Operation Round-Up on November 15, 2023.



We encourage the recipients to spread the word to other organizations that Operation Round-Up has money to share.

Front row L to R: Marilyn Hood, Aricka Marsh, Marilyn McCollum (ORU board member), Tim Hoyt. Standing L to R: Suzanne Vivier, Mary Ann Erickson, Jen Skansberg, Lorraine Brustad, Calvin Larson, Cathy Paavola, Shannon Johnson, Wendy Nelson and Sandy Girtz.

**Manager's Message**

continued from page 5.....

Project Tundra is designed to capture up to 4 million metric tons of CO2 annually from the Young Station. (Katie Grover) The project will utilize the largest fully permitted CO2 storage facility in the United States. Along with a second permitted storage facility near Center, N.D., the project has the ability to store up to 222 million metric tons of CO2 in North Dakota. Project Tundra is currently in its final development phase. The completion of advanced engineering and design work on the carbon capture facility is scheduled for the spring of 2024. A final decision on whether to move forward with the project is expected in mid-2024. As a member cooperative of Minnkota Power, Clearwater-Polk Electric is excited about the possibilities of the future with Project Tundra. Look to future articles in your Current Activities newsletter for updates on the project as it progresses.

**Reliability**

In a December 13, 2023 press release, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) CEO Jim Matheson issued the following statement on the North American Electric Reliability Corporation’s (NERC) 2023 Long-Term Reliability Assessment:

“NERC’s latest assessment paints another grim picture of our nation’s energy future as demand for electricity soars and the supply of always-available generation declines,” Matheson said. “Nine states saw rolling blackouts last December as the demand for electricity exceeded available supply. And proposals like the EPA’s power plant rule will greatly compound the problem. Absent a major shift in state and federal energy policy, this is the reality we will face for years to come.”

NERC’s assessment highlights growing concern over the next 10 years. “Key measures of future electricity demand and energy needs are rising faster than at any time in recent years,

adding to future resource adequacy concerns at a time of unprecedented transformation in the industry.” It warns that “an increasingly large portion of North America is at risk in the future.”

NERC recently listed energy policy as a threat to reliability.

Clearwater-Polk encourages our legislative leaders, state and national, to take a stand on energy policies that approach the issue with common sense, and have solutions that include all-of-the-above energy sources to ensure our nation has a stable, secure and reliable energy supply.

How much does the generations of today have to sacrifice for future generations before it would be considered irresponsible? It is important to look to the future, but responsibly, so we are not disregarding the needs of those who we serve today.

Until next time, and, as always, stay safe, happy and healthy!

Deanna