

The Nodak Neighbor

Official Publication of the
Nodak Electric Cooperative, Inc.

746-4461 or 800-732-4373

www.nodakelectric.com

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CGF Project closing in on completion

Construction on Minnkota Power Cooperative's Center to Grand Forks (CGF) Transmission Line Project is moving close to the finish line.

All that's left is about 8 percent of the line stringing work and some restoration activities on the western half of the project. Foundation installation and structure setting were completed earlier this year.

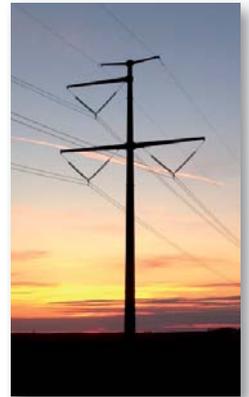
A helicopter crew is stringing line in Sheridan County. The goal of Minnkota, our wholesale energy provider, is to have line construction completed by the end of July. Restoration work will continue in a few counties on the western half of the project and replacement tree planting will begin.

While Minnkota wants to get the 250-mile, \$352 million project finished as soon as possible, safety remains the highest priority. CGF officials have been stressing the importance of not letting our guard down during the last months of work.

The CGF Project is the longest line in state history that begins and ends within the state of North Dakota. It's also Minnkota's largest capital investment ever in transmission facilities. Minnkota will use the line to transport energy from its Milton R. Young Station power plant near Center, N.D., to the Red River Valley.

The line will meet Minnkota's obligations as a transmission services provider for grid reliability and to meet long-term load growth needs. The recent reassignment of an existing transmission line also drives the need for additional transmission facilities.

For more information on the CGF Project, please go to www.minnkotacgf.com.



Look up, look down, look out!

It's summer time in North Dakota, finally! Whatever your summer activities, Nodak would like to offer these annual reminders for your electrical safety:

Look up! Be aware of overhead wires! When getting your family boat ready for a leisurely day on the water, make sure you maintain a minimum clearance of 10 feet from energized power lines. Use extreme caution when trailering boats beneath power lines. When operating cranes, boom trucks and other large machinery, be aware of the power line up above. When using ladders (even wooden ones), and other long tools, be sure to keep them at least 10 feet from all overhead power lines. Electricity can jump, or arc, and it will when a potential conductor comes too close. If you are in contact with those things as well, you may become part of the path and could be electrocuted and severely injured. The best insulator is lots of space.

Look down! In many neighborhoods, power lines are buried underground. Once the lines are covered with dirt and grass, you can't tell exactly where they are located. To avoid a potential life threatening injury to yourself and others, as well as the expense and embarrassment of hitting a utility line, call 811 – North Dakota One Call – at least two working days prior to excavating to locate your utility lines. This free service ensures that all underground power lines in your yard are clearly marked so you can stay away from them when digging.

Look out! The large, green pad-mounted transformers you see in the yards of homes and businesses contain the above ground portion of an underground electrical installation. The current-carrying parts of the pad-mounted equipment are securely locked inside the cabinet, and when left alone, these metal enclosures are harmless. Never allow children to play on or around them, and call Nodak if you see a transformer box that looks damaged, unlocked or open. Think safety first!

Source: From our friends at Kodiak Electric Association

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Mylo Einarson
President & CEO

Go to www.action.coop and make your concerns known

On Monday, June 2, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reached a milestone in the CO₂ debate when they issued proposed rules for limiting carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants. During the next 120 days, the EPA will accept comments on the draft rules from industry, the environmental community, and folks like you and me. They will then take the next year to evaluate and respond to those comments before issuing a final set of regulations by June of 2015.

The final rules may or may not look much like the initial draft, but there will undoubtedly be changes between now and final passage. Since it's not likely Congress will be able to act, it will be up to us to make sure the EPA knows how we feel. If you haven't already done so, please take just a few minutes and go to www.action.coop and let the EPA know you don't want new regulations that will force an increase in the cost of electricity and erode the reliability of our power supply.

I've written articles before about EPA regulations and their approach to reducing carbon. If you have read any of these articles, you might assume that I'm not concerned about the environment. That couldn't be further from the truth. Whether our electricity is generated from coal, natural gas or wind turbines, we take our responsibility seriously to provide reliable and affordable electricity while doing our best to protect the

RENEWABLE ENERGY NUCLEAR POWER
NATURAL GAS CLEAN COAL

America needs an
ALL OF THE ABOVE STRATEGY
to keep electric bills affordable

Go to www.action.coop and let the EPA know you don't want new regulations that will force an increase in the cost of electricity.

ACTION.COOP

environment.

What concerns me more than the current state of climate change is EPA's approach to regulate a solution in an inefficient and ineffective way that will change little more than the cost of your electric bill. At Nodak, our first priority is the safety of our employees and the public. It always will be. Close behind safety comes reliability and price – two things that the EPA's new rules could affect greatly.

It's early in the process, and much work will be needed to wade through the 1,600-page proposed rule. It's very complex, but it will dictate how we operate our electric system and how we use electricity for the next 16 years and beyond.

What we do know, is that it places different CO₂ reduction goals on each state based on a formula meant to identify each state's ability to reduce its carbon intensity. It then leaves it up to each state to determine how it will meet these new thresholds. With each state having the flexibility to develop their own plans, carbon taxes to renewable portfolio standards and everything in between will be discussed and considered as part of this local solution.

What this means for Nodak and its members is that we all need to be prepared to spend a lot of time talking with our state legislators and regulators in the coming years. For now though, the best thing we can do is to go to www.action.coop and express our concern directly to the EPA. The EPA is trying to remove coal from our power supply, and we need to make sure they know we don't want that to happen.

811 OR CLICK BEFORE YOU DIG

NORTH DAKOTA CALL

ALWAYS CALL 8-1-1 OR VISIT NDOCALL.COM BEFORE YOU START ANY DIGGING PROJECT!

Keeping you connected

Nodak uses a variety of tools to communicate with its members

The ability to communicate effectively is as important as any life skill.

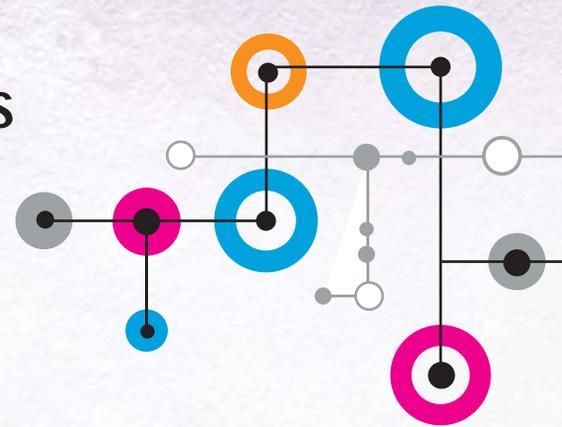
At Nodak Electric Cooperative, we take communication with you, our member-owners, seriously. As a result, we have many communication vehicles to transfer information to you.

Just think of how our communications tools have changed over the years. We have much more than the newsletter and bill stuffer as vehicles to communicate important information to you. The Internet has added a website and Facebook to our communications mix.

The telephone also is an important communication tool. We want you to call us directly if you have an outage. Call 701-746-4461 or 800-732-4373 and a 24-hour dispatch service will contact the crews in your local area.

With the many rules and regulations changes in our industry today, it's a good thing we have so many communication tools.

Here is a look at the different ways in which you can receive information from your cooperative.



Nodak Neighbor

(official publication of cooperative)



- Published six times per year
- Rate change, board policy and annual meeting notifications
- Manager's report
- Industry news, safety tips
- Feature stories



Telephone

701-746-4461 or 800-732-4373

- Report an outage, to contact someone directly

Bill Messages

- Important billing or event information placed right on your bill



Website

nodakelectric.com

(Cooperative information, downloads)

- Bylaws, rates
- History, staff, directors, general co-op facts
- Contact information
- Load management and off-peak electric heat information
- Announcements
- Kids Zone
- Employment opportunities
- Safety and energy-saving tips
- Technical information
- Billing options
- Energy information
- The Nodak Neighbor issues





What to do during power interruption

Power doesn't go out often, but when it does, Nodak Electric Cooperative attempts to restore service quickly. Below is information to help you prepare for an outage event.

To report an outage, call 701-746-4461 or 800-732-4373.

Nodak Electric Cooperative's phones are answered 24/7. When the office is closed, a qualified dispatcher takes your call and reports the outage to the appropriate crews. We will answer your call as promptly as possible. Keep in mind this is the only way to positively communicate an outage to us.

If the power goes out

1. Stay away from downed power lines and broken utility poles. Report those downed lines or poles to Nodak immediately. Even lines that look harmless can be dangerous.
2. Check your fuses or circuit breakers both in your dwelling and on the meter pole (if you have fuses and breakers there).
3. If you know your neighbors are without power, have witnessed unusual sights or sounds such as a loud bang, or other conditions that could have caused an outage, please report that information when you call to assist crews in determining the scope of the outage.
4. Turn off electric appliances in use when the outage occurred, especially ovens/stoves or hot plates, air conditioners and portable electric heating units. However, you should leave a light switch on so you will know when power is restored.
5. Radio messages and information on Facebook from Nodak Electric will be available during major outage events.
6. Leave doors closed on refrigerators and freezers as much as possible during outages. Food will keep much longer if the doors remain closed.

Be prepared

You can prepare for these situations by keeping a power kit on hand. Among kit items to consider are a flashlight with batteries, spare fuses and a portable radio with fresh batteries. If appliances such as medical necessity devices, computers and sump pumps are used, please consider a battery backup or standby generator for extended power interruptions.

Our goal when an outage occurs

When your cooperative experiences extended power outages, its goal is to restore service to the greatest number of members possible. Line crews begin at the power source or substation and work their way out to individual services. Dangerous problems, such as downed power lines, are a priority.

Facebook

(Immediate two-way communication)

- News releases
- Large outage information
- Safety tips
- Upcoming events



Bill Inserts

- Targeted messages





This fall, Campus Crest will complete construction of 13 apartment buildings going up north of the Canad Inn, Grand Forks.

Construction season in full swing



*By Steve Breidenbach
Engineering Manager*

The 2013 construction activities are in the books and the 2014 construction year is just starting. Because of a very wet spring, Nodak's construction activities started a bit slow this year. During a typical year, there are about 600 to 700 work orders assigned. Last year was a record year with more than 850 work orders completed.

Nodak's construction is broken down into four main categories: new services, underground cable replacement projects,



North Plains' crews install underground cable.

system improvement projects and replacing overhead with underground power lines.

New services

The last few years have been very active with drain tile pumping services. The economics of installing a tiling system seems to make sense for many of our members. Nodak also serves ADS (Advanced Drainage Systems), a large manufacturer of the drainage tile systems located east of Buxton, N.D.

The housing east of Devils Lake along U.S. Highway 2 has really taken off. Ackerman Valley has been steadily adding lots each year. This year, Nodak will add cable for more than 70 lots adjacent to the existing lots. The city of Devils Lake has finished the construction of a pumping station and Nodak will complete a backup service to the pump site located on the south side of the city. The lake activities

(Right) City of Devils Lake pump site, located just south of Devils Lake. (Below) Ackerman Valley housing addition, Devils Lake.



have been attracting many campers to the area, and camping sites all around Devils Lake are increasing in size. Haybale Heights has increased the service to its area with a three-phase extension to accommodate the growing area.

North of the Alerus Center in Grand Forks is also a very active area. Campus Crest, housing catering to students, will be energizing more than 220 new meters by the end of this year. A new Walmart has opened its doors this spring along Highway 2 on the west side of Grand Forks. Acme Electric is nearing completion of a new distribution center in the new Industrial Park addition just west of I29 and south of 17th Avenue South. Reliance Telephone has recently broke ground on a new building north of 17th Avenue South and 42nd Street. Grain handling and irrigation service requests also continue to add to Nodak's growth.

Underground cable replacement

Nodak operates and maintains 8,040 miles of primary power lines – 4,103 miles of overhead and 3,937 miles of underground. There are more than 600 miles of underground cable that was installed 30 to 40 years ago. The number of active underground faults are reduced every year with the replacement of cable, but there still is about 1,000 active faults on the system. Nodak experienced 97 underground faults last year. In 2006, Nodak had 236 faults and has been steadily reducing that number. Nodak continues to evaluate the high concentration areas of underground failures and replaces those areas on a case-by-case basis.

System improvement projects

These projects could be as small as changing wire into a member's yard, or as large as a multi-mile project performed on the main line and in areas that serve many members in a widespread area. These projects are considered upgrades of capacity, or a change in the condition of the system, such as adding guy wires, lowering or rerouting underground lines, etc.

Overhead line replacement

Every year, Nodak has numerous requests from members and customers to replace the overhead power lines with

underground power. There are many reasons for this category of work. These projects are done on a cost-share basis.

Most of the underground installations are performed by a contractor, North Plains Utility Contracting, which installs the cable. Nodak crews terminate, splice and install all the devices that are needed to complete each job.

As the construction season progresses and our work orders pile up, it is very important to plan ahead as far as possible. If you are planning any new construction or changes on your existing service, please contact the engineering department.



New home construction in and around the Grand Forks area continues to expand.



This spring, Walmart opened its doors to a new 181,000-square-foot retail facility along Highway 2 in Grand Forks.



Acme Electric will soon complete its distribution center in the south end of the Industrial Park in Grand Forks.

Nodak's electric heating rebate program!



Incentives available
for installation of
an off-peak electric
heating system

- Receive \$20/kW rebate for the installation of a qualifying electric heating system that is on off-peak.
- Air-source heat pump incentive is \$100/ton – heating mode must be controlled on off-peak.
- Ground-source heat pump incentive is \$200/ton – heating mode must be controlled on off-peak.
- Equipment must be new and off-peak systems must have a qualified backup.
- Program began May 1, 2014.
- Homeowner will receive a rebate check after visit from Nodak Electric technician.
- Maximum incentive per off-peak meter is \$600.

Homeowners adding new off-peak heating systems qualify for these rebates.

Contact our Energy Services Department for details at 701-746-4461 or 800-732-4373

Do you remember?

75^{Years}

Do you remember when the lights came on? Nodak Electric will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2015. To commemorate the event, we are looking for stories about when power first came to the Valley. Use the form at right to tell us your story. Either drop it off at our offices, email it to nodak@nodakelectric.com or mail it to Nodak Electric. Stories will be published in the 75th anniversary history book.



Share your story about when the lights came on.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Drop off completed form at Nodak's offices or mail to:
Nodak Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 13000, Grand Forks, ND 58208-3000