

The Nodak Neighbor

January-February 2022
Official Publication of Nodak Electric Cooperative
www.nodakelectric.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Off-peak heating is the
purr-fect choice for
comfort and savings

(More information inside)

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Nodak Electric Cooperative, Inc.

746-4461 or 800-732-4373
www.nodakelectric.com

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January-February 2022
Officers and Directors

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Vice Chairman David Kent
Secretary/Treasurer David Brag
Directors Ryan Benson, David Hagert,
Luther Meberg, Pete Naastad,
Cheryl Osowski and Les Windjue
President & CEO Mylo Einarson
Editor Blaine Rekken

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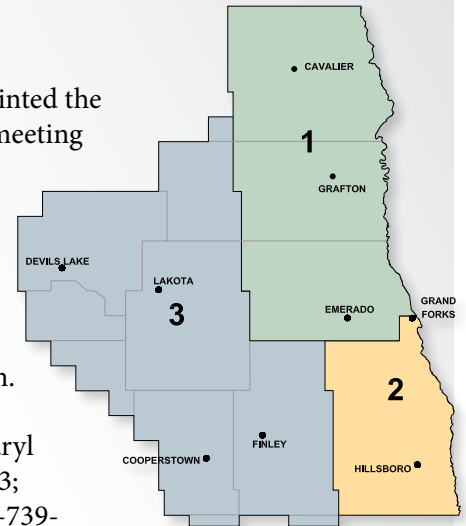
On the cover: The value of off-peak heating entices even Mr. Pickles, whose favorite activity is snuggling up with a blanket and taking a nap on these cold winter days.

Three director positions open

Nominating committee members appointed

The board of directors has appointed the committee on nominations. At its meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022, at the Nodak headquarters building, 4000 32nd Ave. S., Grand Forks, the committee shall prepare and post a list of nominations for the director positions slated for election.

Committee members are: John Aamodt, Arvilla, 218-779-5250; Daryl Evenson, Devils Lake, 701-739-9093; Richard Hanson, Grand Forks, 701-739-0950; Shannon Johnson, Park River, 701-331-2933; Neal Klamm, Thompson, 218-779-7378; Jared Peterka, Forest River, 701-520-2937; Glenn Rethemeier, Larimore, 218-779-3222; Paul Retzlaff, Aneta, 701-270-0181; and Linda Stromstad, Hatton, 701-335-3034.



Three director positions open

Three director positions will be open at the annual meeting on April 12, 2022. The directors whose terms expire in 2022 are:

- District 1 – Luther Meberg (incumbent seeking reelection)
- District 2 – David Kent (incumbent seeking reelection)
- District 3 – Les Windjue (incumbent seeking reelection)

Nomination by committee

If you are interested in being nominated or would like to nominate an individual, you may contact a committee on nominations member.

Nomination by petition

Nominations may also be made by petition signed by at least 15 cooperative members. The signed petition must be received at Nodak's headquarters by close of business day Friday, Feb. 25, to verify nominee qualifications and allow sufficient time for voting by mail.

UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

Check and see if you have unclaimed capital credits at:
nodakelectric.com/capital-credits



*Mylo Einarson
President & CEO*

Value of off-peak electric heating

We regularly try to point out that the electricity we sell is a good energy value. Our core mission is to provide our membership with safe, reliable and affordable electricity, but we also take pride in that our commodity remains a good energy value when compared to alternative sources. Natural gas and propane prices have risen dramatically over the last several months. Natural gas prices today are over double what they were at this same time last year, while propane prices are forecast to be about 75% higher than last winter. Fortunately, the cost of electricity from Nodak Electric Cooperative has stayed stable for the last several years and will do so for the balance of 2022.

These high natural gas prices, coupled with a lingering drought that has reduced available hydroelectric resources, has caused tremendous volatility in the wholesale markets. Last winter, we saw a polar vortex upset the wholesale markets

for about a week or so. Today's high market prices have been occurring with more regularity. To avoid having to purchase high-priced wholesale electricity, our wholesale power provider, Minnkota Power Cooperative, utilizes their off-peak load control system. Over the past several years, the wholesale power market has been relatively low compared to where it is today, so the load control system has enjoyed a period of lesser use. The higher market prices and extreme volatility will certainly mean the value of this system will be realized with more robust use over this winter season.

Some of you may be enjoying the low rates that we offer as part of our off-peak heating program. What you probably didn't realize is that by being a participant in this program, you are helping all of us enjoy lower rates. By being able to reduce electricity demand through the use of our load control system, Minnkota Power is able to avoid purchasing high-priced energy to meet the peak

demand, or alternatively, adding additional generation resources that would only be necessary during the very highest use times of the year. Those cost savings play a large part in keeping our wholesale power costs down, which in turn impacts all our rates.

On another note, I typically use this issue of the Nodak Neighbor to remind you of the upcoming annual meeting and board of directors election. After two years of virtual meetings, our goal is to finally get you all together in person at the Alerus Events Center in Grand Forks. Our meeting is set for Tuesday, April 12, beginning with supper at 5 p.m. with the meeting to follow at 6 p.m. We will again have three board positions up for election, so if you or anyone you know may be interested in running for a seat on your cooperative's board of directors, contact us at the cooperative headquarters in Grand Forks and we will be happy to help you through the process.

Save the Date

ANNUAL MEETING

April 12 | Alerus Center
Supper: 5 p.m. | Meeting: 6 p.m.

Around the co-op



Jeff Sloan
Crew Foreman
Finley

Jeff Sloan retires

Jeff Sloan, Nodak crew foreman for Finley, N.D., recently retired from the cooperative after 33 years of service. Jeff started in 1989 with the former Sheyenne Valley Electric Cooperative and continued his employment with Nodak following the merger in 2000. He was promoted from journeyman lineworker to lead lineworker and crew foreman, a position he held until his retirement.

Thank you, Dwight and Jeff, for your service and commitment to the cooperative. We wish you all the best in your retirement.



Dwight Mosher
Electrical Equipment Operator
Construction Crew

Dwight Mosher retires

Dwight Mosher, electrical equipment operator with the construction crew, has retired after 17 years with Nodak. Dwight started at the cooperative in 2005 with the underground crew, where he operated a trencher and removed electrical line equipment. He then transferred to the construction crew where he removed overhead lines, hauled cable and repaired transformers.

Employee updates



Sawyer Smith
Crew Foreman
Finley

Sawyer Smith has accepted the position of crew foreman in Finley, N.D., with the retirement of Jeff Sloan. Sawyer started with Nodak as a seasonal apprentice lineworker with the Michigan construction crew, and was later promoted to journeyman lineworker with Nodak's Finley crew. A Larimore, N.D. native, Sawyer is a graduate of Bismarck State College's lineworker program. He enjoys spending time with his family, watching NDSU football and hunting. Sawyer resides in Finley with his family.



Jacob Lund
Apprentice Lineworker
Cavalier

Jake Lund, a Grand Forks native, started with Nodak as a seasonal lineworker with the Cavalier crew and recently accepted a full-time position. He went to lineworker school at Northwest Lineman College in Idaho. Jake enjoys all outdoor activities and DIY projects. He plans to live in Cavalier.



Jordan Johnson
Apprentice Lineworker
Finley

Jordan Johnson, a Cooperstown, N.D. native, started with Nodak as a seasonal apprentice lineworker with the Grand Forks crew. He is a graduate of Bismarck State College's lineworker program. He has recently accepted a full-time apprentice lineworker position with Nodak's Finley crew. Jordan will reside in the Finley area.

Graduating lineworker apprentices

The North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) is proud to announce the graduation of 13 lineworkers from its apprenticeship program. Over the last 60 years, more than 725 people have completed the program. To graduate, apprentices must complete 8,000 hours of on-the-job training and more than 400 hours of study.

On Jan. 13, NDAREC hosted a graduation ceremony to formally recognize lineworkers who completed the apprenticeship program in 2021. Congratulations to Nodak's graduates (below), who are now journeyman lineworkers for the cooperative!



Trent Edens
Journeyman Lineworker
Cavalier crew



Brock Janikowski
Journeyman Lineworker
Grafton crew



Jesse Sturman
Journeyman Lineworker
Grand Forks crew

Value during volatility

Minnkota and its members expect active off-peak season spurred by volatile energy markets

Last winter, a polar vortex event sent energy market prices soaring. Fewer resources across the country were able to generate electricity in the historic cold, and demand was high for the few resources that were generating enough to sell into the electric grid.

Utilities are experiencing those high market prices again – but it’s not because of a single major weather event this time. It’s the climbing cost of natural gas.

“Natural gas is one of those resources that typically help manage the variability in electricity generation, and we’re seeing prices that are significantly higher than what we’ve seen in the past 10-15 years,” explained Todd Sailer, senior manager of power supply & resource planning for Minnkota Power Cooperative (Nodak Electric Cooperative’s wholesale power provider). “We’re seeing prices double and triple what they were last year, or even over the last couple of years.”

While the energy markets soared for only 7-10 days in February 2021’s polar vortex, Sailer says this volatility could last throughout the winter season, or longer. That’s good insight for cooperative members on the demand response – or off-peak – program, which allows the co-op to temporarily interrupt service to a participant’s off-peak loads (electric heating, large-capacity water heaters, electric vehicle chargers, etc.) in exchange for a lower electric rate.

“The projection is that these high prices will likely drive our demand response more than we’ve seen in the past years,” Sailer said.

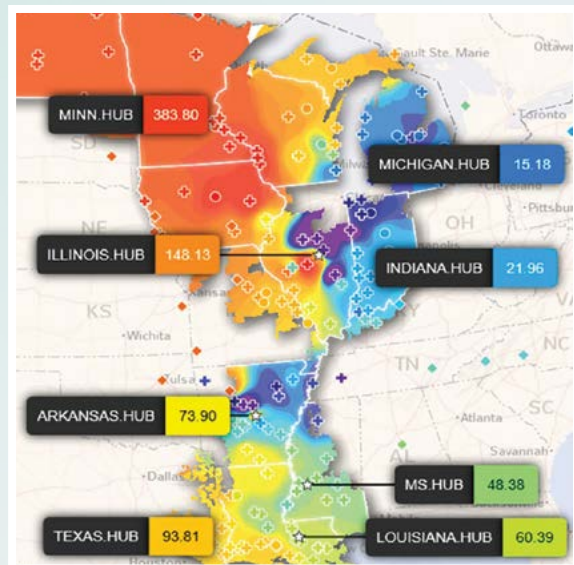
Minnkota’s energy marketers are preparing for 200 hours of off-peak load control this winter, but Sailer says that could rise if natural gas prices continue to climb. He also notes that load control could be spread out over more days and not always coincide with major weather events.

“If we have days of low intermittent resources in the region, like wind power, the expectation is that the markets will respond and you’ll see higher markets, which will result in more off-peak control,” he said.

Ultimately, the cooperative will deploy off-peak load control when it needs to protect itself from buying high-price energy from the market. This system was established years ago to avoid building more generation facilities for peak need that only arises a few days out of the year. That, in turn, keeps rates low for consumers. By being a part of the off-peak load control program, consumers can also take advantage of an even lower electric rate without any disruption in comfort.

Sailer urges those who are a part of the off-peak program to make sure they have adequate backup fuel supply. Confirm that all parts of your heating system are running smoothly.

“It’s not just natural gas – it’s propane, it’s all fuel sources that have seen an increase in cost. Which leads to people reliant on their off-peak system,” Sailer said. “Members should be making sure their system works.”



This image of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) energy markets on Feb. 13, 2021, shows a swath of red, where market prices in our region climbed to about 25 times higher than recent averages. With natural gas prices high, any dip in intermittent resource generation – like wind – can send costs soaring.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

CONSTRUCTION PLANS THIS SUMMER? DON'T FORGET ABOUT US.



If you are planning any kind of construction, grain handling upgrade or any other projects that require an electric service upgrade, don't forget to contact us at **800-732-4373**.

With many projects already scheduled for this construction season, advanced notice helps us plan to better serve you. Lead time for some materials has substantially increased.

LINE PATROL

Line crews will be conducting line inspections starting around January/February. You may see our crews driving around and inspecting overhead lines. Crews will be inspecting services and equipment on members' properties.

Please use caution when driving through work zones. You may encounter traffic restrictions, reduced speeds, lane closures, detours and/or delays. Above all, slow down and please drive carefully!

Rural Development Finance Corporation awards grant in Nodak Electric Cooperative's service area



Nodak Electric Cooperative director Cheryl Osowski and Gilby city council member JoLynn Dickson.

Nodak Electric Cooperative is a member of the Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC). As a result, communities in our service area were eligible to apply for a grant of up to \$2,000 for community-based projects. RDFC is making these funds available in order to make more people aware of their larger loan program that funds community-based projects and nonprofit entities with low interest loans.

RDFC has recently granted \$2,000 to the City of Gilby, N.D. The shingles and underlayment of Gilby's park shelter are deteriorating. The grant funds will be used to replace the materials and use steel for the roof

to help with maintenance. The "Welcome to Gilby" sign located on the south edge of town will be updated and the plants in the planter will be refreshed as well.

The RDFC is a nonprofit corporation that encourages economic diversification and community vitality through the generation of funding that supports sustainable asset building. Funding for RDFC programs comes from fee income generated by Dakotas America LLC, a community development entity providing New Market Tax Credits in economically distressed census tracts across the U.S. The North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives provides support to RDFC.

GREAT REBATES

Add comfort and energy efficiency to your home with help from Nodak Electric Cooperative!

Rebates are available to help you upgrade your heating and cooling system, water heater and chargers for electric vehicles. Nodak Electric offers these rebates to encourage load development, load retention and wise use of energy.

Electric heating

Heating Systems	Rebate
Plenum heaters, baseboard, electric furnace and hanging unit heater	\$25/kW
Cable floor heat, electric boiler and brick storage unit	\$45/kW
Mini-split or air-source heat pump	\$150/ton
Ground-source heat pump	\$250/ton



Water heaters

Electric Water Heaters	Rebate
55 gallon or less	\$125
56-99 gallon	\$200
100 gallon or greater	\$300
Additional rebate for new building construction	\$100
Additional rebate for conversion from existing natural gas or propane to an electric water heater	\$250



Electric vehicle chargers

Electric Vehicle Chargers	Rebate
Electric vehicle (EV)	\$50/kW
Commercial – forklifts, Zambonis, etc.	\$50/kW



All systems must be new equipment and controlled on Nodak's off-peak program. A check will be issued to participating members after a visit from a Nodak technician.

Please call our Energy Services team at 701-746-4461 or 800-732-4373 if you have any questions about off-peak or the rebate program.

POWER OUTAGE

If you have a power outage,

please call us – do not contact us via Facebook message, as the after-hours dispatch center does not monitor our Facebook page.

746-4461 or 800-732-4373

Are you wasting your money on DIRT?

Dirty air filters cause a heating and cooling system to work harder and break down faster.

That's because unfiltered dust and grime works into parts, creating friction that causes unnecessary wear and eventually failure.

How much does a dirty air filter cost you?

- Reduced air flow in the home, leading to up to 15% higher operating costs
- Leads to costly duct cleaning or replacement
- Lowers system efficiency

To avoid these expenses, change filters monthly when your heating and cooling system is in regular use.

Discuss cleaning the unit and ductwork with your heating and cooling service professional.

Source: High Performance HVAC, U.S. Department of Energy

How much are you spending on heating each month? Consider off-peak electric heating.

Nodak Electric Cooperative member-owners can save money by allowing their electric heating system to be controlled during peak demand periods while using their backup heating system. The savings to Nodak during these control events is passed on to participating off-peak members through a lower electric heating rate. To qualify, an electric heating system must be coupled with an automatic, whole home backup heating system. A device is installed to control the electric heat remotely. The off-peak rate is offered during the heating season months of October through May. Contact us for more information at www.nodakelectric.com/off-peak-electric-heat or by calling Member Services at **800-732-4373**.

If during the heating season you experience a control event that seems excessively long or have no hot water, please be sure to give us a call at 800-732-4373 first to determine if further help is needed.



How does Nodak's \$0.062/kWh off-peak heating rate compare to alternative fuel sources?

Fuel Type	Furnace Efficiency	Fuel Price	Unit of Measure
Propane	95%	\$1.58	gallon
	80%	\$1.33	gallon
Natural Gas	95%	\$1.73	ccf (for mcf x 10)
	80%	\$1.45	ccf (for mcf x 10)
Fuel Oil	70%	\$1.78	gallon
	60%	\$1.53	gallon