

The Nodak Neighbor

January - February 2023

Official Publication of Nodak Electric Cooperative
www.nodakelectric.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Nation's electric grid
could face winter
challenges

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Official Publication of the
Nodak Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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January-February 2023
Officers and Directors

Chairman of the Board..... Steve Smaaladen
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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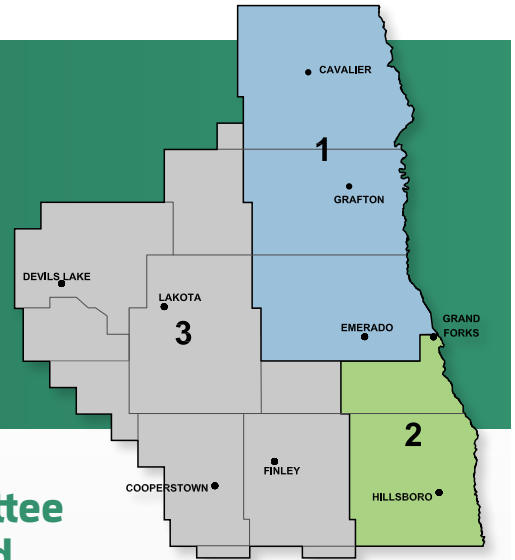
UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

Check and see if you have
unclaimed capital credits at:

nodakelectric.com/capital-credits

On the cover: A Minnkota Power Cooperative (our wholesale power provider) 230-kV line near Crookston, Minn., during a frosty winter day in January.

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. Monday, Feb. 20, 2023, 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; Jody Tibert, Minto, 701-360-1099; 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 11, 2023. The directors whose terms expire in 2023 are:

District 1 – Cheryl Osowski (*incumbent seeking reelection*)

District 2 – Pete Naastad (*incumbent seeking reelection*)

District 3 – Steve Smaaladen (*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. 24, to verify nominee qualifications and allow sufficient time for voting by mail.



*Mylo Einarson
President & CEO*

Take an active role in your cooperative

Each year in this issue of the Nodak Neighbor, we begin the process of the Nodak director election. You will note we have included a list of members who have been appointed to the director Nominating Committee. This committee will accept nominations for three positions open on the board of directors. This process represents one of the most important differences between an electric cooperative and other forms of electric utilities.

Each year, the door is open for you and every other member of the cooperative to take an active role in the election of the board, which governs your utility. Your role may be as little as simply making a commitment to vote during the director election in April.

You might want to go to the next step and actually attend the annual meeting of the cooperative on April 11, 2023, and vote in person. If so, that evening you will learn quite a lot about Nodak, participate in the election process, have a chance to win one of many door prizes, and eat a great meal served by the Alerus Center. If you haven't been to one of our annual meetings, I would encourage you to give it a try.

The ultimate involvement in the director election process is to step up and run for one of the three director seats, which are open each year. Being nominated is easy. You can contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee, or you can have 15 fellow Nodak members sign a petition, and you are on the ballot.

Any member in good standing of the co-op can run for the board. Of our nine board members, three

are elected each year at our annual meeting, which means – with only a few exceptions – all members have the opportunity to run for the board each year. One of those few exceptions is that our bylaws restrict board positions in each district to no more than two from any county. Since we already have two incumbent board members in District 2 residing in Grand Forks County, members from Grand Forks County are not eligible to run for election in District 2 this time around. However, all other members in good standing are eligible to run for the board this year. Will it be you?

Being a member of the co-op's board is an incredibly important position. A director's decision will impact issues such as service, rates, workplans and bylaws. These positions hold great responsibility and require men and women who understand our communities' needs and serve the cooperative members' best interests.

Your board fulfills many vital roles for the cooperative. Not only are they the ultimate decisionmakers when it comes to policy-driven initiatives for the cooperative, they are also the local connection to the

membership. Board members represent our eyes and ears out in the service area. They bring back member concerns and suggestions, provide a local "neighbor" for you to discuss cooperative business with and represent your interests at the board table.

If you or someone you know are interested in hearing more about how to run for a seat on your cooperative's board of directors, contact us at the headquarters in Grand Forks and we will help you through the process. Even if you choose not to have that level of participation, you should all feel empowered to reach out to current board members and candidates or encourage your friends and neighbors to participate. When our members are actively involved with the cooperative, we are all better off.

As a cooperative, we invite our members to take an active role. In fact, it is critically important to the survival of the cooperative business model that we use our voices to be heard on the issues that matter to us. Let your voice be heard by taking the time to participate in your cooperative's election and annual meeting. We hope to see you there.

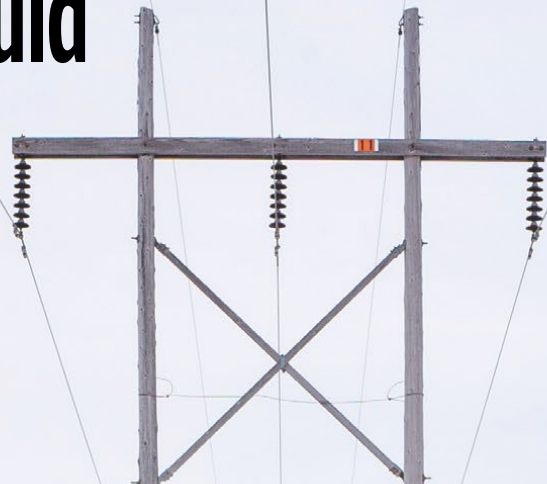
ANNUAL MEETING

April 11, 2023 | Alerus Center

Supper: 5 p.m. | Meeting: 6 p.m.

Nation's electric grid could face winter challenges

NERC ASSESSMENT SAYS RISKS GROW WITH RETIREMENTS OF COAL, NUCLEAR GENERATION



The increasing demand for electricity and the retirement of reliable power plants are contributing to an “unprecedented” risk of power shortages across the United States this winter, according to a report from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC).

NERC, the entity charged with maintaining the reliability of the electric grid, issued its annual Winter Reliability Assessment in November. This assessment indicates that the shutdown of dependable power plants, inadequate generation weatherization, fuel supply risks and a shortage of natural gas pipeline capacity could lead to requests for energy conservation and the potential for controlled power outages across the U.S.

“The bulk power system is impacted year after year, more than it has ever been,” said John Moura, NERC’s director of reliability assessment. “Weather is the most influential factor. The grid has to constantly balance supply and demand.”

If power supply is not adequate to balance demand, controlled outages must be implemented to avoid cascading failures. In extreme cold

temperatures, short outages can present extraordinary hardships – and can even be life-threatening.

Minnkota Power Cooperative has more than enough electric generation resources (coal, wind and hydro) to meet its requirements throughout the year. However, Minnkota is interconnected with other utilities across the Upper Midwest through an organization called MISO. Challenges in other parts of the MISO region can and do impact Minnkota’s operations.

Since last winter, more than 4.2 gigawatts (equivalent to 4.2 billion watts) of coal and nuclear power plant capacity were retired without adequate replacement in other areas of the MISO system. These resources provide vital reliability and resiliency to the grid because they have the ability to operate on a 24/7 basis and are built to run in subzero temperatures. Conversely, wind and solar farms can be prone to operational challenges in extreme cold conditions – including shutdown.

Minnkota is taking action to ensure it is ready for the winter season and is doing everything possible to protect its membership from challenges, including:

- Routine maintenance and weatherization of electric generation and transmission assets are conducted to ensure reliability.
- Minnkota continues to operate and maintain its coal-based resources, which have performed well in polar vortex events and during other weather-related challenges.
- Minnkota’s robust off-peak program provides vital grid support during extreme events and helps shield the membership from high-cost energy purchases on the open market.
- Minnkota continues to advocate for a sensible energy transition that works toward environmental goals while still ensuring the reliability of the electric grid.
- Minnkota will continue to work with policymakers to help explain the impacts of legislation on the reliability and affordability of electricity.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN

Nodak Electric Cooperative and Minnkota Power Cooperative?

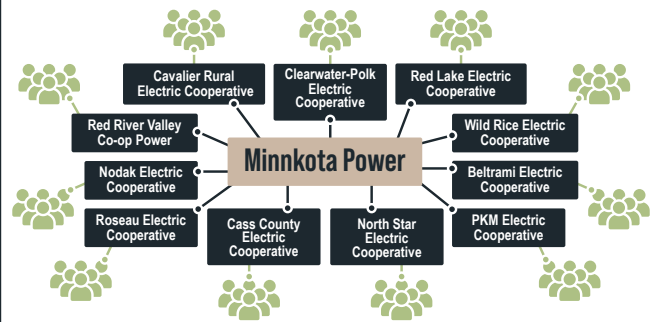
You often hear us talk about Minnkota Power Cooperative in the pages of this newsletter, so we wanted to take a moment to explain what makes us partners and what sets us apart.

Nodak Electric Cooperative is one of 11 rural electric cooperatives that purchase electricity generated and delivered to local substations by Minnkota. From the substations, Nodak Electric Cooperative distributes the electricity to the homes, farms and businesses in our service territory.

So, what are the differences between Minnkota and YOUR co-op?

Ownership

- **Minnkota** – Minnkota is owned by the member cooperatives it serves, like Nodak Electric Cooperative.
- **Nodak Electric Cooperative** – Your co-op is owned by YOU, along with all of the other local members to whom we distribute power.



Mission

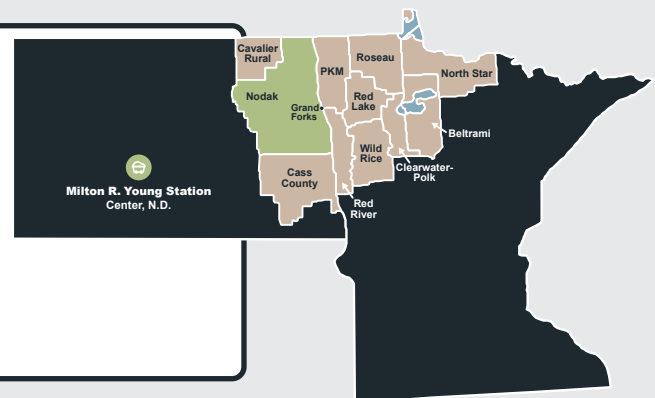
- **Minnkota** – Minnkota's main mission is to generate safe, reliable and environmentally responsible electricity (through coal, wind and hydro sources) and transmit that electricity to its member cooperatives, like Nodak Electric Cooperative.
- **Nodak Electric Cooperative** – Your co-op's main mission is to deliver electricity to its member consumers reliably and affordably, no matter the season.

Board

- **Minnkota** – Minnkota's board of directors is composed of representatives from the boards of its member cooperatives.
- **Nodak Electric Cooperative** – Your co-op's board of directors is composed of member-consumers like you, voted onto the board by you.

Location

- **Minnkota** – Minnkota is headquartered in Grand Forks, N.D., with its main generation plant (Milton R. Young Station) located in Center, N.D.
- **Nodak Electric Cooperative** – Your co-op is headquartered in Grand Forks, N.D., with service centers in Grand Forks, Grafton, Cavalier, Devils Lake, Michigan, Finley and Hillsboro.



Learn more about our wholesale electricity supplier at Minnkota.com.

A RESOLUTION TO SAVE

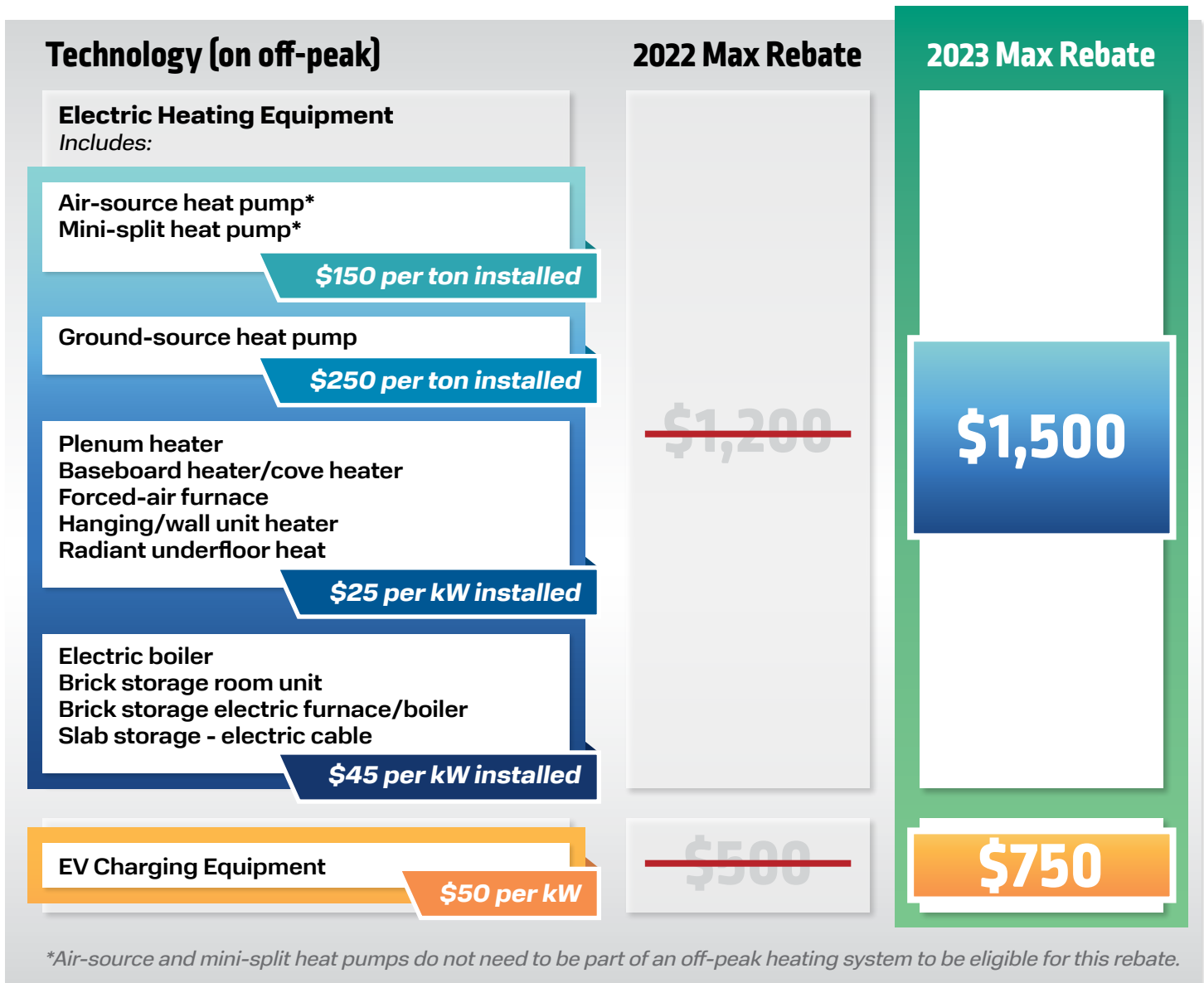
Receive our **LARGEST REBATES EVER** in 2023!

New Year's resolutions can be daunting, whether you want to quit a bad habit, exercise more or learn a new skill. But we're going to make positive changes a little easier for you this time around, because Nodak Electric Cooperative is setting its own New Year's resolutions in 2023.

Resolution 1: Electrify more members' lives | Resolution 2: Put more money back in members' hands

How are we going to follow through? We're boosting our maximum rebates on two of 2023's hottest electric technologies: electric heating (including heat pumps) and electric vehicle (EV) charging equipment. All you have to do is enroll in your co-op's money-saving off-peak program. On top of the equipment rebate, you'll receive an exclusive reduced electric rate – nearly half of the standard rate.

2023 is going to be a great year for you. Take a look at all the ways you can save!



Start the new year right by learning more about Nodak Electric Cooperative's off-peak program options. Just call our friendly member services team at 800-732-4373 or browse the technology options at ValueOfElectricity.com!



NORTH
Dakota Be Legendary.
Health & Human Services

GETTING COLD INSIDE? OH BABY! GET HEATING ASSISTANCE!

Need help with home heating costs and weatherization?
Apply to see if you qualify for assistance from LIHEAP.

DOCUMENTS TO HAVE WHEN YOU APPLY:

- Completed LIHEAP application
- Verifications of any income you received in the prior month, current month and what is anticipated in the following month
 - If you want LIHEAP to help going back to October (start of current heating season), you will need to provide all income going back to October to current month.
 - If you want to be reimbursed for bills you PAID, you MUST also include proof of paid heating bills along with your income for those months you are requesting reimbursement.
- Verifications of expenses you have paid from June 1 to current
 - Medical expenses
 - Childcare expenses
 - Child Support/Alimony
- Copy of your heating bill
- Copy of your lease if you rent

For more information,
go to hhs.nd.gov/energyhelp

Smart Choices. Smart Tool.

SmartHub is more than a bill payment and usage tracking system, it delivers convenient account management and detailed usage information in an all-in-one, easy-to-use system. **SmartHub** is a mobile web application that delivers accurate, timely account information and allows you to make payments in a secure environment, right from your mobile device or on your computer. Track your usage and take the guess work out of your bill. Through detailed graphs, you'll be able to monitor usage and track your consumption, finding ways to reduce and save each month. Go paperless with convenient access to your bill anytime and from anywhere. And it's totally free!

Sign up for **SmartHub**
nodakelectric.com



SNOWMOBILE SAFETY: BE AWARE OF POWER LINES AND TRANSFORMERS

Nodak Electric Cooperative reminds snowmobilers of all ages to be cautious while snowmobiling. Heavy snow and drifting can bury electrical equipment, causing dangerous situations for snowmobilers. Please remember to be safe. Here are some things to keep in mind while you're out enjoying the snow:

- Watch out for power poles, guy wires and electrical equipment that can be hidden in the snow. Heavy snowfalls can often bury transformer boxes and cabinets.
- Slow down, be familiar with the area you are snowmobiling and stay on the trails.
- If you see a downed power line, **STAY AWAY** from it and call 911 to report it. There is no way to tell if a power line is energized just by looking at it. Always assume it is live and can carry currents strong enough to kill.
- Always wait for help to arrive before you approach an accident scene where a power line may be involved.
- Share this information with family, friends and anyone you know who rides a snowmobile.



WHY IS MY POWER OUT?

We don't like it when the power goes out just as much as you don't like it. When there is an outage, we work hard to resume service as safely and quickly as possible. Many times, the reasons for outages are beyond our control.

Here are the main reasons the power goes out:

- 1 Storms** – High winds, ice and lightning can interrupt service. Lightning can strike trees and cause branches or even whole trees to fall on distribution lines. Lightning can also cause a problem if it strikes substation equipment, such as a large transformer.
- 2 Trees and vegetation** – Branches, limbs or trunks can fall on lines, and vegetation (such as vines) can grow around poles, lines, or other equipment. This is why we work so hard to keep power lines and equipment clear.
- 3 Animals** – An estimated 11% of outages are caused by squirrels. They love to chew on the weatherproof coating around lines. Turkeys and snakes can interfere with service, too.
- 4 Accidents** – Cars, trucks and farm equipment that have a run-in with a utility pole can cause an outage.
- 5 Public damage** – Unsafe digging, equipment or line damage, vandalism, or theft can cause interruptions.
- 6 Overload** – This can happen when demand spikes, such as when too many air conditioners run on a hot summer day, causing blackouts or brownouts.
- 7 Equipment** – We maintain and inspect all of our lines and equipment regularly; however, sometimes equipment malfunctions. We strive to address any problem as soon as it happens.



Ice that accumulates on lines and strong, high winds can impact distribution.

Please contact us at **800-732-4373** with questions about outages or to learn more about the steps we take to provide reliable service. For more information about electrical safety, visit **SafeElectricity.org**.