

# The Nodak Neighbor

November-December 2024  
Official Publication of Nodak Electric Cooperative  
[www.nodakelectric.com](http://www.nodakelectric.com)

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



## Hope renewed

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# The Nodak Neighbor

Official Publication of the  
Nodak Electric Cooperative, Inc.

746-4461 or 800-732-4373

[www.nodakelectric.com](http://www.nodakelectric.com)

*This institution is an equal opportunity  
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Officers and Directors

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## SAVE THE DATE

85<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 10, 2025  
Alerus Center

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

*On the cover:* This fall, the Hope substation entered a well-deserved retirement. Its aging infrastructure was replaced by a state-of-the-art substation designed to meet the community's electricity needs for generations to come.

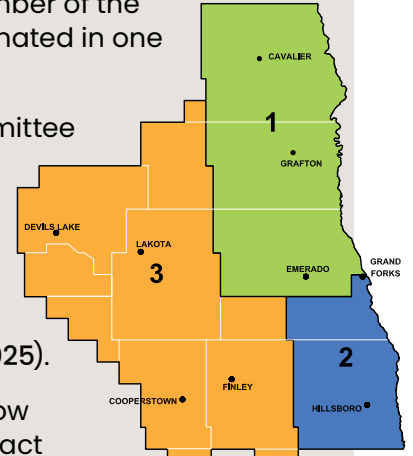
# 2025 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Nodak Electric Cooperative, Inc. will hold its 85<sup>th</sup> annual meeting **Thursday, April 10, 2025**, at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, N.D. Elections for three director positions will be held at the annual meeting.

Members who desire to serve as a member of the Nodak board of directors may be nominated in one of two ways:

1. By Nominating Committee. The committee will meet **Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2025**.
2. By a petition signed by 15 members of Nodak in good standing. The petition must be submitted to Nodak's office 45 days prior to the annual meeting (**Monday, Feb. 24, 2025**).

If you are interested, or would like to know which district you reside in, please contact Nodak's office at 701-746-4461 or 1-800-732-4373 for more information.



## NEW EMPLOYEE UPDATE



### Welcome Kevin Kalash!

Kevin Kalash is our newest Energy Services Specialist at Nodak Electric Cooperative.

Kevin's first day at the cooperative was October 1. For the past 19 years, Kevin has been an electrician, starting his career at Accurate Electric and most recently with Bergstrom Electric.

Kevin lives in Grand Forks with his wife Jamie and daughter Bristol. In his spare time, Kevin and Jamie own the Rock Bottle Shop and he also enjoys hunting and fishing.

Kevin is excited to be at Nodak Electric and to meet the members.





*Mylo Einarson  
President & CEO*

# Energy behind the scenes

**E**lectricity is essential for nearly every aspect of daily life – so essential that we rarely think about how it's produced and delivered to our homes. You might be surprised to learn that behind the scenes, a network of experts are working daily (and even by the minute) to anticipate how much electricity you need before you even use it.

We're all connected to the electric grid, so ensuring the right amount of electricity for all involves a complex process of forecasting energy demand, planning for capacity and securing enough supply to meet our members' needs.

## Powerful sources

First, electricity must be generated at a power plant using either traditional sources, such as coal, natural gas or nuclear energy, or from renewable sources, such as solar, wind or hydropower.

At Nodak Electric Cooperative, we work closely with Minnkota Power Cooperative, our local wholesale power partner, to secure enough electricity for our members, using a diverse mix of energy sources to generate the power we deliver to your home or business. By maintaining a diverse energy mix of approximately 700 megawatts (MW) of coal, 457 MW of wind, and 109 MW of hydropower, Minnkota has options to ensure reliable power at a competitive cost.

On a larger scale, across the country, electricity supply and demand

are managed through a market that includes long-term planning agreements, where electricity is bought and sold just like other common goods and services. Because Nodak works with our wholesale power partner, which is also a cooperative, we have the capacity to consolidate resources and expertise to deliver affordable power to our member-owners.

Electricity supply changes throughout the day because demand fluctuates based on consumers' needs. For example, Minnkota knows that we need to ensure more electricity is available in the mornings when you're starting your day, and in the evenings when you're cooking dinner, running appliances and watching TV. Demand also increases when weather patterns change, such as extremely warm or cold temperatures.

## Managing supply and demand across the grid

Across the country, other electric utilities are managing the same task of balancing supply and demand, which is why we have a larger network of key players in place to ensure enough power is delivered across the grid.

In most cases, the amount of electricity generated and how much is sent to specific areas are coordinated and monitored by regional transmission organizations (RTOs) and independent system operators (ISOs). In other areas, individual electric utilities perform these tasks.

RTOs, ISOs and electric utilities act as air traffic controllers for the

electric grid. They forecast when you, your neighbors and communities across a large region will need more power. These organizations take measured steps to ensure there's enough supply to meet demand.

## Looking ahead

As the energy sector undergoes rapid change, it's important for all consumers to understand the basics of electricity supply and demand.

Electricity use in the U.S. is expected to rise to record highs this year and next, with the demand for electricity expected to at least double by 2050. At the same time, energy policies are pushing the early retirement of always-available generation sources, which will undoubtedly compromise reliable electricity.

Nodak Electric Cooperative remains committed to providing affordable, reliable energy to the members we serve. That's why we are preparing now for increased demand and other challenges that could compromise our local electric supply by updating and modernizing our system. Managing the balancing act of electricity supply and demand is a complex job, which is why we have a network of utilities, power plant operators and energy traffic managers in place to direct the electricity we need and keep the electric grid balanced.



# HOPE RENEWED

## *New substation, transmission upgrades to benefit Nodak members*

For nearly 80 years, the Hope substation has quietly been the backbone of the rural power distribution grid in and around the town for which it is named. From the beginning of the rural electrification movement to the modern digital age, the substation has kept pace with the needs of Nodak Electric Cooperative members and continually delivered reliable electricity to homes, farms and businesses.

This fall, the Hope substation entered a well-deserved retirement. Its aging infrastructure was replaced by a state-of-the-art substation designed to meet the community's electricity needs for generations to come.

Substations like Hope are essential components of the power

grid. These facilities step down high-voltage electricity so it can be safely delivered to the community and rural citizens throughout the region. Minnkota Power Cooperative, Nodak's wholesale power provider, manages the substation, providing the electricity that Nodak delivers to its members.

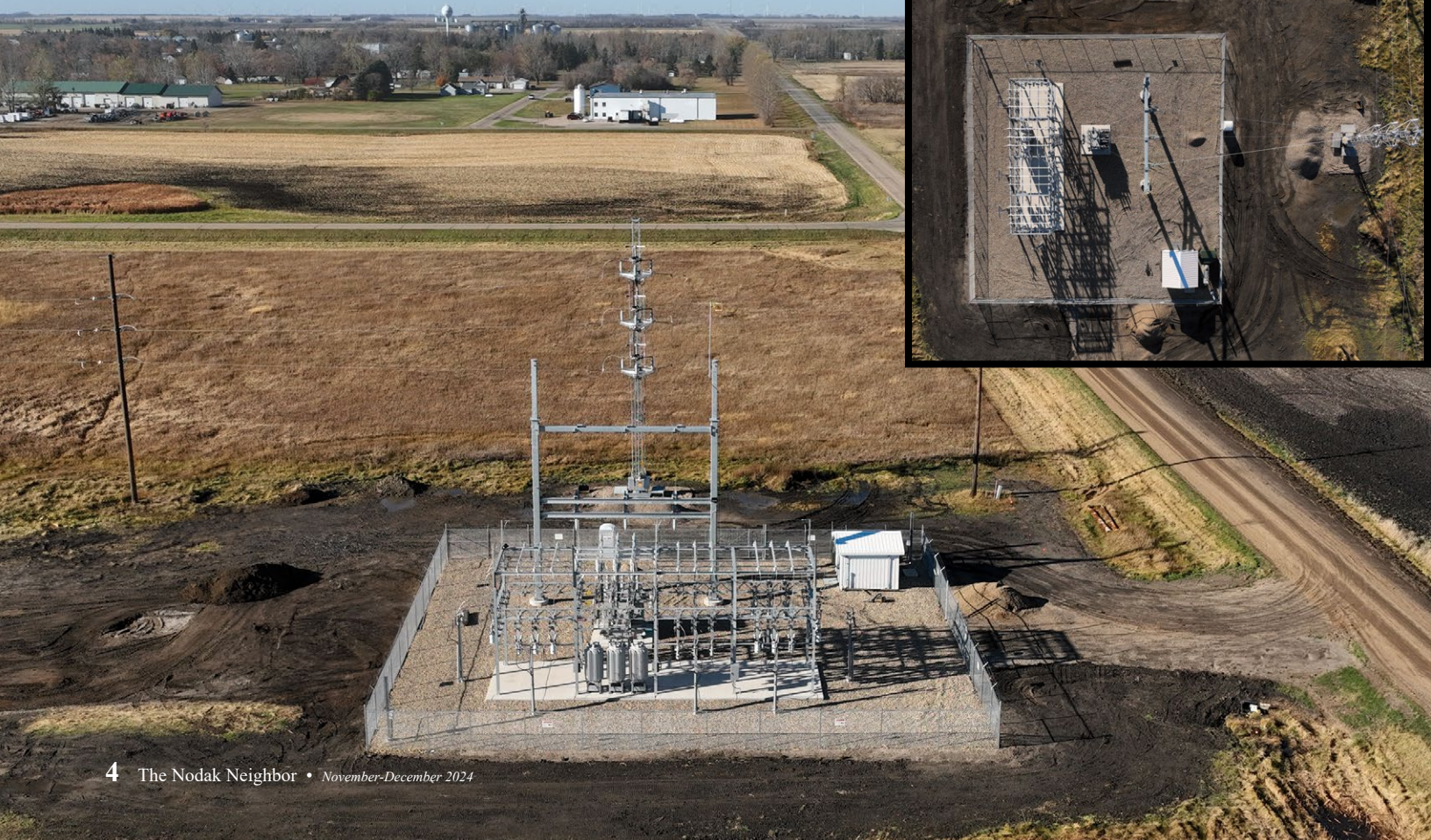
Taking advantage of favorable summer and fall weather, Minnkota's power delivery crews completed construction of the new Hope substation in early November. Later that month, crews from Minnkota and Nodak worked together to energize the facility. With the new substation now online, crews have also decommissioned the old site, which includes dismantling equipment and restoring the area with fresh landscaping.

### **A smarter, more reliable grid**

The new Hope substation brings more than just upgraded hardware. It's equipped with advanced technology, including a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. This system collects real-time data, enabling Minnkota's operators to remotely monitor and manage the substation's performance. With SCADA, Minnkota's control center can quickly identify and address issues, potentially reducing the duration of power outages.

In addition to the Hope substation work, Minnkota also completed the rebuild of 14.4 miles of high-voltage transmission line near Buxton, North Dakota. This aging stretch of line was replaced with a new, modern design to help ensure reliability and provide needed capacity for future growth in the region.

These upgrades mark another milestone in the ongoing commitment from Nodak and Minnkota to reliably power communities and staying ahead of future energy needs.







## OPERATION ROUND UP® MEMBER RETIRES FROM BOARD

Chairperson Trish Schindele made her last appearance at the October Operation Round Up board meeting, completing her third and final three-year term. The Devils Lake member stated that her time serving was rewarding and fun and that the years flew by.

We'd like to express our sincere gratitude to Trish for her dedication and hard work on the Operation Round Up board. Trish's diligence in keeping the meeting organized, on task and flowing smoothly showed her commitment to community and is truly inspiring.

## What is Operation Round Up?

Operation Round Up is a voluntary program that allows Nodak's members to round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar and donate the difference to assist local individuals and nonprofit organizations with crucial needs.

Learn more about Operation Round Up and sign up to contribute: [nodakelectric.com/operation-round-up](http://nodakelectric.com/operation-round-up).

We encourage all of our member-owners to consider participating in Operation Round Up. It's a great way to support your community and make a difference!

## DUAL FUEL MEMBERS: PLEASE CHECK YOUR BACKUP SYSTEM FUEL SUPPLY

Members of Nodak Electric who are a part of the dual fuel load management program are encouraged to check if they have adequate supplies of their secondary fuel source this winter.

**REMINDER:** Winter season load control time is managed to around 300 hours, but could change due to unforeseen conditions. Control occurs on days of high electrical demand, high wholesale energy prices and/or system emergencies.

Morning and evening control should be expected. **If you are on our dual fuel load management program, please make sure that your backup system has sufficient fuel for the winter months.** Contact Nodak Electric if you have any questions.



## ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Nodak Electric Cooperative and its partners will again provide an opportunity for area electricians to obtain credits for license renewal by attending one of the continuing education classes being offered.

*Instructor Tim Pull will present "100 Questions on the 2023 NEC," which looks at several code questions that may be asked when taking a typical electrical exam for a journeyman or masters license. The seminars are approved in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota for eight hours of continuing education credit necessary for renewing electrical licenses.*

**January 29, 2025 or January 30, 2025**

Minnkota Power Cooperative  
5301 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South | Grand Forks, ND

Taking the class on multiple days will not qualify for 16 code credits. The registration fee is \$80 for eight code credits. Registration can be done online at [www.minnkota.com](http://www.minnkota.com) and must be completed at least seven days prior to the seminar.

For residential building contractor continuing education workshops, contact your local home builders association.

For more information about the program, please call (701) 795-4292 or e-mail any questions to [contractortraining@minnkota.com](mailto:contractortraining@minnkota.com).



**1,800 students.**  
**7 days.**  
**1 unforgettable trip.**

Join us on the adventure of a lifetime. On the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, you'll do it all. You'll explore monuments and museums, meet with members of Congress and get an up-close look at where our country's laws are crafted. You'll stand on the Gettysburg Battlefield, walk the halls of George Washington's iconic 18th-century mansion and witness ceremonies honoring the men and women who fought in uniform for this great nation. For one jam-packed week, you'll be immersed in the cooperative spirit that built and sustains our great nation. And **all expenses are paid** by your local electric cooperative! *Yeah, Youth Tour hits different.*

**Learn more at [ndyouthtour.com](http://ndyouthtour.com).**

**To enter the essay-writing contest:**

- You must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Nodak Electric Cooperative.

**Essay question:**

Why is it important to be involved in your community, and how does that prepare you to be a future leader?

**The application deadline is Jan. 17, 2025.**

Questions? Please contact Gretchen Schmaltz, Nodak Electric Cooperative, at 701-746-4461 during regular business hours.

Email entries to Gretchen Schmaltz at [gshmaltz@nodakelectric.com](mailto:gshmaltz@nodakelectric.com) or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, 4000 32nd Ave. S., P.O. Box 13000, Grand Forks, ND, 58208-3000.





## PROTECT WHAT MATTERS:

Be proactive and safeguard your accounts and personal information from cyber threats.

### Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA):

Adds extra layers of security, making it challenging for hackers to access your accounts, even if they steal your password.

### Passwords & Passphrases:

Use long and memorable passwords and passphrases to protect your accounts from unauthorized access and theft.

### Stay Safe Online:

Combine these practices to safeguard your accounts, payment methods, and personal information from cyber threats.

VISIT [NODAKELECTRIC.COM/SMARTHUB](http://NODAKELECTRIC.COM/SMARTHUB) FOR MORE INFO

## STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations/policies, USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs or reprisal/retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA; not all bases apply to all programs; remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (AD-3027) found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: 202-690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

## SAVE A STAMP: SIGN UP FOR AUTO-PAY TODAY!

Auto-pay is a great way to make paying your electric bill easier and ensure there's no late payments. You can still get a printed monthly statement that indicates the amount to be withdrawn, or you can sign up for electronic statements.



### Auto-pay via checking or savings

We will automatically deduct the exact amount of your monthly electric bill from your checking or savings account. If you're enrolled in budget billing, the amount of your budget bill will be deducted.

### Auto-pay via credit card or debit card

We will automatically charge the exact amount of your electric bill to your credit or debit card. Visa and MasterCard are accepted.

## STRUGGLING TO PAY YOUR BILLS?

Energy assistance may be available!

- 1 Contact agency and request application
- 2 Fill out application and provide all requested documents
- 3 Upon acceptance, notify Nodak Electric

If you are considered low income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, the following agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.

- Community Options of Bismarck  
[www.communityoptionsnd.com](http://www.communityoptionsnd.com)  
1-800-823-2417
- Dakota Prairie Community Action  
701-662-6500
- Social Services – Fuel Assistance  
701-787-8535
- Griggs County Social Services  
701-797-2127
- Nelson County Social Services  
701-247-2945
- Pembina County Social Services  
701-265-8441
- Ramsey County Social Services  
701-662-7050
- Red River Community Action Agency  
701-746-5431
- Salvation Army – Grand Forks  
701-775-2597
- Southeastern Community Action Agency – Fargo  
701-232-2452
- Spirit Lake Nation – Fuel Assistance  
701-766-1206
- Spirit Lake Social Services  
701-766-4404
- St. Joseph Social Care & Thrift Store – Grand Forks  
701-795-8614
- Steele County Social Services  
701-524-2584
- Traill County Social Services  
701-636-5220
- Walsh County Social Services  
701-352-5111



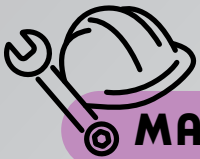
## COMMON CAUSES OF POWER OUTAGES

Nobody likes a power outage, but I'm sure you've wondered why it happens. These are some of the most common causes for a power outage.



### WEATHER

Snow, ice and high winds can cause tree limbs to negatively impact power lines. Lightning strikes, wildfires and other weather-related events can also cause damage to equipment.



### MAINTENANCE

We occasionally schedule planned outages in order to perform upgrades or repairs to parts of the local electric grid.



### ACCIDENTS

Vehicles can run into utility poles, resulting in downed power lines. However, farm equipment, construction and excavation work are the leading causes of disruptions to overhead and underground power lines.



### ANIMALS

Squirrels, snakes, birds and other critters can cause short circuits and disruptions to the power supply by making contact with power lines.

SEE A LIVE NODAK OUTAGE MAP AT ANY TIME BY VISITING

[NODAKELECTRIC.COM/OUTAGES.](http://NODAKELECTRIC.COM/OUTAGES)

Remember: Report an outage by calling 1-800-732-4373 or 701-746-4461.