

The Nodak Neighbor

September-October 2022

Official Publication of Nodak Electric Cooperative
www.nodakelectric.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



**Stay safe this
harvest season**

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Official Publication of the
Nodak Electric Cooperative, Inc.

746-4461 or 800-732-4373

www.nodakelectric.com

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The Nodak Neighbor (USPS 391-200) is published six times a year, February, April, June, August, October and December for \$1.00 per year by the Nodak Electric Cooperative, Inc., 4000 32nd Ave. S., Grand Forks, N.D. 58201-5944. Periodicals postage paid at Grand Forks, N.D., and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NODAK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., P.O. Box 13000, Grand Forks, N.D. 58208-3000.

**Volume 72, No. 5
September-October 2022
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Remembering **HARVEY TALLACKSON**

Harvey Tallackson, a longtime electric cooperative leader and North Dakota state senator, died on July 27 in St. Paul, Minn. Tallackson, 97, will be remembered as a strong advocate for electric cooperatives and rural citizens in the region.

Tallackson served on the Nodak Electric Cooperative board from 1965 to 2010. He also served as Nodak's representative on the Minnkota board from 1974 to 2010 – including 12 years as vice chairman and 15 years as chairman.

Tallackson was born May 15, 1925, in Grafton, N.D. He served

as senator for District 16 in North Dakota's northeastern corner for 32 years. In addition to public service, Tallackson was active in many organizations in the Grafton and Park River communities.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Glenna, to whom he was married for 73 years. The couple had four children, 13 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

A funeral service was held at Zion Lutheran Church, rural Hoople, N.D., on Sept. 7, 2022.

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On the cover: Harvest is now in full swing in Nodak's service territory. The co-op would like to thank all of the region's farmers for the extra hours they put in throughout the fall season.

Electric off-peak heat rates begin Oct. 1

Members with subtractive or separately metered off-peak electric heating systems will be charged the applicable off-peak rate for energy usage beginning Oct. 1. The off-peak rates will continue to be charged for energy usage through May 31, 2023. Current off-peak rates are \$0.062/kWh for long-term and \$0.077/kWh for short-term controlled systems. It is a good idea to inspect, clean and test your heating system before cold weather arrives. Please check to make sure all of your electric heat circuit breakers are on prior to Oct. 1.

Daily cycling of electric storage heat to begin in late October

Members heating with electric thermal storage, such as thermal storage room units, thermal storage furnaces or slab/in-floor heating, should turn on their heating system prior to Oct. 15 to allow a heat reservoir to build up before daily cycling of loads begins. The actual date cycling begins varies each season. Thermal storage heating is controlled each day from 7 a.m. to noon and 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.



*Mylo Einarson
President & CEO*

Supporting our local communities

Fall is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month with school, community, and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month.

When I say Nodak Electric celebrates Co-op Month, it really means we are celebrating you! After all, our co-op wouldn't exist without you, our members.

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. "Concern for Community" is one of seven guiding principles that all co-ops share.

Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions – because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and good neighbor.

Nodak Electric Cooperative works to help our communities thrive through initiatives led by our employees and local board that's comprised of neighbors who live right here in our communities. Because we're local, we understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them.

We're proud to support local youth through our annual Youth Tour and our Line Worker Scholarship Program. With your help, we offer the Operation Round Up® program, providing assistance to our community's most vulnerable. We partner with and support the Rural Development Finance Corporation and other business development programs such as the Rural Economic Development Loan Program.

The word "cooperative" is close to "cooperation," meaning people working together toward a common goal – mutually benefiting one another and the larger community. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit. Our employees and member-elected board members are invested in the community in which we live and serve.

Above all, as a co-op we put our members' priorities first. As your trusted energy partner,

we know that saving energy and money is important to you. That's why we have numerous programs in place to help, including off-peak electric heat, rebates for electric heating and electric transportation, as well as electric vehicle charging programs.

We want to empower you to manage energy use at home. If you haven't already, I encourage you to take a moment and download our app, SmartHub. Through the app, you can conveniently monitor and manage your energy use. And we're of course here to help, so give us a call if you have questions about your energy bills.

Nodak Electric Cooperative is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently while continuing to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we're your local co-op. We were built by the members we serve.

THANK YOU
TO OUR MEMBERS,
DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES

Celebrating National Co-op Month in October



THINKING ABOUT ADDING YOUR OWN GENERATION?

Are you thinking about installing a solar panel system, wind turbine or a standby system that can connect to the grid to supplement your power usage? These systems are called distributed energy resource (DER) generation, and you must apply for interconnection with Nodak Electric Cooperative before you move forward with a project. What is interconnect? Interconnect is adding power back safely onto the Nodak Electric Cooperative energy grid.

The interconnect process ensures:

Your system is wired properly.

Nodak's equipment is adequately sized for the project.

Safety for you and Nodak personnel working on the power lines.

To get started on your system, please follow the steps below:

1. Give Nodak a call to discuss your project early in the consideration process.
2. Complete and send the interconnection application to Nodak's engineering department. These documents are available online at www.nodakelectric.com. Click on the Technical Resources icon (at bottom of homepage), then Interconnection Process for Generation Systems.
3. When fully approved, have the project connected by a qualified electrician and certified installer.
4. Electrical work must be issued a North Dakota wiring certificate.
5. Notify Nodak when the project is complete for an inspection and testing.
6. If interconnecting a DER that is a renewable energy system, a separate net-billing agreement is required to receive an energy credit for excess energy delivered to Nodak's grid.

If you have any questions and are considering a solar, wind or standby system, please call **701-746-4461** or **1-800-732-4373** or email Nodak at DER@nodakelectric.com.

National Co-op Month

October is National Co-op Month, making this is the perfect time to reflect on the seven cooperative principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good.

1 Open and Voluntary Membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.

2 Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership.

3 Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

4 Education, Training, and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

5 Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members.

6 Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative.

7 Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities.

DUAL FUEL MEMBERS:

Please check your backup system

If you have a dual fuel heating system, now is the time to be sure your backup heating system is prepared and that you have adequate fuel supply.

- Dual fuel heating systems are usually controlled during periods of high demand (such as frigid winter evenings), but other factors such as high market cost can lead to load control as well.
- Winter season load control time is managed to 300 hours, but could be more due to unforeseen conditions.
- Electric heating load control periods typically occur during early morning and evening peak demand times, however, load control can occur at any time.
- Participants should expect more control days this winter, with most occurring between December and February.

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 your electric company**

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
1-800-823-2417

Dakota Prairie Community Action
701-662-6500
Grand Forks County

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 Cares
& Thrift Store – Grand Forks**
701-795-8614

Steele County Social Services
701-524-2584

Trail County Social Services
701-636-5220

Walsh County Social Services
701-352-5111



WHAT IS OFF-PEAK?

An off-peak system consists of an electric heating source as its primary component. When Nodak Electric Cooperative has high demand, the electric heat will automatically turn off and a supplemental heating source will need to operate in its place.

Off-peak heating loads are generally controlled during the coldest months of the year when the demand for electricity is high.

By enrolling in the program, the savings we get on demand charges are passed on to the participating Nodak Electric Cooperative members through the low off-peak electric rate, which is \$0.062/kWh – approximately half of the regular retail rate. This rate is extremely competitive with petroleum fuels used for heating.

Minnkota Power Cooperative, our wholesale power provider, tracks demand peaks and when control is needed, it sends a message via power lines that will reach you by your individually programmed ripple receiver at your home, farm or business and will automatically switch to the supplemental heat source.

There are many options for your off-peak heating installation, but the main requirement is a reliable backup system to ensure you have heat on the coldest days. If you are interested in off-peak, please contact our Energy Services Department at 701-746-4461.

We want to continue to be able to offer this program for years to come. The way we will be doing that is yearly checks on our off-peak equipment to ensure it is working properly. We will be able to monitor them from the office, which may also require an in-home inspection of the equipment.



Did you know that the cost of one basic car wash equals the cost of running your refrigerator/freezer for an entire month? **That's the value of electricity!**

STAY SAFE THIS HARVEST SEASON

As newer farming technologies emerge, causing machinery to get bigger, Nodak is noting more incidents of farming equipment striking poles or contacting overhead lines. This causes dangerous and costly collisions which can occur quickly on the farm.

Earlier this month, Minnkota Power Cooperative dispatched line personnel, along with a Nodak crew, when a large piece of equipment struck and toppled a transmission pole, causing a two-hour power outage to two

substations that affected more than 2,000 members. "This is one of many outages Nodak seen just this year," said Steve Breidenbach, Engineering Manager.

These accidents have caused significant damage to the electric system, and added cost in the thousands, he added.

Grain augers or lifted truck boxes exiting a field can become an excellent path to the ground should you fail to recognize the potential danger of a power line overhead.

1. Consider any overhead line dangerous. Keep objects at least 10 feet away from power lines.
2. Inspect your working areas for possible interference with overhead power lines.
3. Don't attempt to raise or move electric lines.
4. Call 811 before digging where power lines are buried.
5. Report potential power line hazards to Nodak immediately.

These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up or planning ahead when operating large farm machinery.

Thank you to all our local farmers for the essential work you do to feed our communities!

Have a safe and bountiful harvest this season.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation
POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

The Nodak Neighbor
 6 Times Year
 Six Times Year

2022
 3 9 1 2 0 0
 6
 \$1.00

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The Nodak Neighbor
 Newsletter

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		16. Issue Date for Circulation in Extended Period July/August 2022	
		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		14355	15155
b. Paid or Outside-Source Paid (includes circulation to libraries, newsstands, street vendors, and other paid distribution)		14355	15155
c. Paid or Outside-Source Paid (includes circulation to libraries, newsstands, street vendors, and other paid distribution)			
d. Total Paid Circulation (Sum of 15b, 15c, and 15d)		14355	15155
e. Free or Nominal Rate (includes circulation to libraries, newsstands, street vendors, and other nominal rate distribution)		35	35
f. Total Free or Nominal Rate Circulation (Sum of 15e, 15f, 15g, and 15h)		35	35
g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15i)		14390	16190
h. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions, Publication #750)		2	2
i. Total (Sum of 15g and 15h)		14392	16192
j. Paid (See Instructions, Publication #750)		99	99

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POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

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Blaine Reinken
 Editor

AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

ESSAY QUESTION:

If chosen as a Youth Tour delegate, you will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to experience and learn about America's rich history. What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?

TOP 3 REASONS:

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Nodak Electric Cooperative.
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.
3. A learning experience you'll never forget.

WASHINGTON, D.C. JUNE 18 TO 23, 2023



- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parent(s) or guardian must be served by Nodak Electric Cooperative.
- If you have any questions, please contact Gretchen Schmaltz, Nodak Electric, at 701-746-4461 during regular business hours.
- **The deadline is Jan. 20, 2023.** You can email entries to Gretchen Schmaltz at gschmaltz@nodakelectric.com or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, 4000 32nd Ave. S., PO Box 13000, Grand Forks, ND 58208-3000.