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Mark Your Calendar

Oct 15 Electric Bills Due

Oct 28. Board Meeting



Find Your Account Number & Win!

TEC has hidden an account number in this newsletter. If you find your account number, notify us by November 1st and receive a **\$10 bill credit**.



Rate Pressure will Continue into '26 & '27

JEREMY HUHNSTOCK | General Manager

It's hard to believe that the summer months are over and we are getting into the full swing of "fall things" like harvest, football, pumpkin patches, and all the road construction coming to an end!

Fall at Traverse Electric signals wrapping up much of our work plan and member driven projects, focusing on next year's budget, and ordering material for our projects the following year. Unfortunately, I have some unwanted news heading into the budget season. Basin Electric Cooperative, our wholesale provider, has indicated a need for an 18.7% increase over the next two years. With over 60% of our costs going to our wholesale power cost, this will lead to rate adjustments over the next two years. Basin has indicated a 9.8% increase beginning January 2026.

The increase is driven by several important developments:

- **Rising Energy Demand:** Growing electricity usage across the region requires new investments in power plants (Bison Generation Station) and transmission lines. Basin's long-term financial forecast now calls for accelerated development compared to previous projections.
- **Large-Scale Capital Projects:** Basin Electric plans to invest approximately \$13 billion (yes, with a "B") in new infrastructure over the next decade.
- **Reserve Requirements:** Our regional transmission organization now requires additional reserve capacity to ensure grid reliability during periods of extreme demands.

Meeting these requirements adds more pressure to build or purchase extra energy resources.

- **Market Instability:** Wholesale energy markets continue to experience volatility, making it harder to predict costs with certainty.
- **Inflation:** Rising prices for material, labor, and equipment further compound the cost of generating and delivering electricity.

While Basin has benefited from rapid growth across its nine-state region, which has helped spread costs across a broader customer base; the combination of increasing demand, infrastructure needs, and inflation means a rate adjustment is unavoidable.

We are also impacted by a planned 6.97% increase from Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), which supplies roughly 14-17% of Traverse Electric's energy. These changes, once in effect, flow directly to the cooperative and, ultimately, to our members.

We recognize how concerning any increase in electric rates can be for families, farms, and businesses that we serve. That's why Traverse Electric's board and staff are working diligently on our 2026 budget to control internal expenses and limit any additional financial burden.

Thank you for your continued support and trust in Traverse Electric Cooperative. Together, we'll navigate these challenges while staying focused on reliability, affordability, and service to our membership.

NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

OCTOBER

Enter to Win **\$25**, **\$50**, and **\$100** Bill Credits in Recognition of Co-op Month

Name _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____

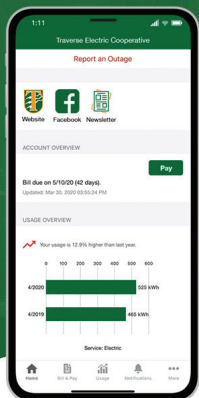
One entry per member. The winner will be notified.

Return to our office by Oct 31, 2025 by mail, dropped off, or emailed to info@traverseelectric.com.



USAGE MONITORING

Be in control and make
decisions that can help
reduce your bill.



Visit traverseelectric.com/smarthub for more information

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

With the holiday season approaching and more time spent in the kitchen, consider ways to save energy in the heart of your home. When possible, cook meals with smaller, energy efficient appliances, such as toaster ovens, slow cookers and air fryers. When using the range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so they reflect heat more efficiently. After your holiday meals are complete, load the dishwasher fully before starting the wash cycle.

Source: energy.gov

MN COLD WEATHER RULE & ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NOTICE

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between Oct. 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and ALL of the following statements apply:

- Your household income is at or below 50% of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by Traverse Electric Cooperative or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonable timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from Traverse Electric Cooperative.

MINNESOTA'S COLD WEATHER RULE DOES NOT COMPLETELY STOP WINTER DISCONNECTS.

Before disconnecting electric service to residential members between Oct. 1 and April 30, Traverse Electric Cooperative must provide:

- A 30-day notice of disconnection;
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities;
- A list of local energy assistance providers;
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection; and
- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.


#1683

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 50% of the state median income to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2026.

To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance.
- For Wilkin, Traverse, Grant, Stevens Counties: West Central MN Communities Actions, Elbow Lake, MN. Email: eap@wcmca.org, 218-405-3073 or 800-492-4805 Option 1, or fax 218-405-3002, <https://wcmca.org/program-area/energy-assistance/>
- For Big Stone County: Prairie Five Community Action, Montevideo, MN. Email: eap@prairiefive.org, 800-292-5437 or 320-839-211 (Ortonville Office), <https://prairiefive.org/programs/energy-assistance/>

Traverse Electric Cooperative is dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact Traverse Electric Cooperative at 800-927-5443 to set up a payment plan. Please visit www.traverseelectric.com for more info on the MN Cold Weather Rule. 



August 2025 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The August regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 8 AM.

Absent: None.

Staff members present were General Manager, Jeremy Huhnstock, Dale Schwagel, and Karen Lupkes.

President Diekmann called the meeting to order.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes of the July regular board meeting were approved.

The July check register was approved.

Discussed the East River and Basin Electric video reports, and the NRECA training video: The Board's Role in the Audit Process.

Diekmann gave an East River Board Report.

Thoennes reported on the Basin Electric Annual Meeting.

Huhnstock presented the General Manager's Report, which included:

- Provided a Basin Electric update.
- Provided an East River update.
- REED Fund review.
- NRECA update.
- MREA and MN legislative update.
- SDREA and SD legislative update.
- Other matters of interest.

Lupkes gave the Office Manager's Report, which included:

- July 31, 2025 accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
- A list of new members was reviewed.
- NISC software conversion update.
- Update on Electrical Dept. and Generator Program.
- East River power bill and Basin's financial reports reviewed.

Reviewed and approved the July 2025 Financial Report.

The Operations Report was presented per written report. Items included:

- Provided a crew update.
- Reviewed upcoming projects for this Fall and for 2026, and completed projects.
- Numerous storms and lightning strikes have caused outages.
- Wet conditions continue to delay projects.
- Carr's Tree Service has started tree trimming, but have had rain delays.
- Reviewed our Safety Program.
- Outages were reviewed.

Approved a Basic Electric Resolution.

Discussed MN Paid Leave that goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2026

East River Demand and Load Control Programs reviewed.

Reviewed upcoming meetings and attendees.

Meeting adjourned. ▶

TEC July 2025 Financials

	July 2024	July 2025	YTD 2025
Total Revenue.	\$1,080,968.06	\$1,292,726.50	\$8,761,194.38
Cost of Power.	\$685,024.42	\$778,567.53	\$5,011,875.49
Total Cost of Service.	\$1,097,352.97	\$1,268,686.21	\$8,243,300.53
Operating Margins	\$(16,384.91)	\$24,040.29	\$517,893.85
Total Margins	\$1,088.29	\$35,011.49	\$916,520.70
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased	10,631,811	10,944,574	78,675,521
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales	10,088,131	10,515,299	75,033,317
Line Loss.5%	4%	4%

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Doug Diekmann, Beardsley, MN
Vice-President: Terry Monson, Veblen, SD
Secretary: Matthew Glynn, Sisseton, SD
Treasurer: Michael Marks, Norcross, MN
Stacy Ehlers, Wheaton, MN
Michael Gaulrapp, Breckenridge, MN
Jared Hamling, Rosholt, SD
Bradley Rudolph, Dumont, MN
Kaley Thoennes, Chokio, MN

OFFICE PERSONNEL

Jeremy Huhnstock – General Manager
Karen Lupkes – Office Manager
Dale Schwagel – Operations Manager
Melissa Przymus – Accountant
Stacie Johannsen – Billing Clerk

OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

Richard Davis – Foreman
Joe Gahlon – Journeyman Lineworker
Isaac Hoverson – Journeyman Lineworker
Austin Reinke – Journeyman Lineworker
Tayden George – Apprentice Lineworker
Jordan Pearson – Apprentice Lineworker
Chris Falk – Facility/Staking Technician
Robert Groebner – Facility Technician

GENERAL MANAGER'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Jeremy Huhnstock
Cell: 320-349-9901 | Direct: 320-563-1055
jhuhnstock@traverseelectric.com

MEMBER SERVICE REP/ MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Connor Bartz
– Journeyman Electrician 320-287-0009

ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS MINNESOTA

Brandon Lennox	320-808-5309
Big Stone County	Grant County
Stevens County	Traverse County
Brent Piekarski	651-420-0855
Wilkin County	

NORTH DAKOTA

Mark Moderow 701-226-3779
Richland County

SOUTH DAKOTA

Nick Helseth 605-280-2188
Marshall County Roberts County

In case of a power outage, call
(800) 927-5443

6590 State Highway 27
P.O. Box 66
Wheaton, MN 56296 USA
Toll-free phone: (800) 927-5443
Local phone: (320) 563-8616

Hours of Operation

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
October 1–April 30

Web site: www.traverseelectric.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Our Mission: To provide dependable service at the lowest possible rates, consistent with sound business principles.