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Mark Your Calendar

April 15 Electric Bills Due

April 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 May 1st and you will get a **\$10 bill credit**.



New Report Shows Minnesota's Electric Grid at High Risk of Future Power Shortages*

JEREMY HUHNSTOCK
General Manager

Maple Grove, Minn. — A recent assessment by the organization responsible for monitoring the reliability of North America's electric grid warns of potential electricity shortfalls in Minnesota's region in the years ahead.

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) is highlighting the latest Long-Term Reliability Assessment from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), which finds the Midcontinent Independent System Operator region, including Minnesota, faces elevated reliability risks as electricity demand grows and existing power plants retire.

"We need to take these warnings seriously," said Darrick Moe, president and CEO of the Minnesota Rural Electric Association. "Reliability is not optional in a state like Minnesota. When temperatures drop well below zero or soar during a heat wave, families, farms and businesses depend on electricity being there when they need it."

NERC regularly evaluates electricity supply and demand across North America. Its latest assessment, which looks ahead through the mid-2030s, shows MISO remains one of the regions with the greatest long-term reliability challenges, particularly during periods of extreme weather.

According to the report, expected growth in electricity demand is outpacing the addition of new generation resources. At the same time, dispatchable power plants that provide consistent, around-the-clock electricity continue to retire. NERC notes this combination increases the risk of resource shortfalls, especially during prolonged heat waves or extreme cold events.

While summer peak demand remains a concern, the assessment also highlights increasing winter reliability risks across much

of the country, including the Upper Midwest. Cold weather events place significant strain on the grid as heating demand rises and energy resources are tested simultaneously.

MREA continues to advocate for what it calls an "all-tech-on-deck" approach to maintaining reliability, recognizing that a diverse mix of resources is needed to meet future demand while keeping electricity affordable.

"Long-term reliability requires long-term planning," Moe said. "That includes taking a fresh look at policies, like Minnesota's nuclear moratorium, that limit our ability to consider proven resources that operate in all weather conditions. Today's energy policy decisions will affect reliability in the decades ahead."

The NERC assessment is a regional analysis and does not suggest that individual utilities are unable to meet their obligations today. However, it does underscore the importance of longterm planning, impacts from policy decisions, permitting certainty and timely investment in generation and transmission infrastructure.

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) is a nonprofit trade association serving Minnesota's electric cooperatives. MREA provides legislative and regulatory representation, director and employee education programs, technical training for electric cooperative line workers, and serves as the focal point for cooperation among cooperatives. Minnesota's 44 distribution cooperatives serve about 1.7 million Minnesotans in all 87 counties and operate the largest distribution network in the state with more than 135,000 miles of electric lines.

**Article written by Joe Miller, Director of Communication of Minnesota Rural Electric Association.*

Annual Cogeneration Notification to Membership

In compliance with Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc. adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc. is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers, whom satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility.

Interested members can find information regarding rates and interconnection requirements at <https://www.novapowerportal.com/Home/Index/69>. All *qualifying facility* interconnections **must follow the Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc's adopted interconnection process and technical requirements to be allowed for interconnection to the distribution system. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by the Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board. Interested members should contact Traverse Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 66, Wheaton, MN 56296 or call 800-927-5443. ▶**

'Who Powers You' Contest Nominations Now Being Accepted



**TELL
US WHO
POWERS
YOU!**

We know our co-op community is filled with people making a difference. Let's celebrate them! Nominate a hero in your community who goes above and beyond. **They could win up to \$3,000!**



Nominate your local hero at

[WHOPOWERSYOUCONTEST.COM](https://www.whopowersyoucontest.com)

Nominations are now open for "Who Powers You," a contest being hosted by Traverse Electric Cooperative and the region's other Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives. The fifth annual Who Powers You contest seeks to highlight local figures and organizations who are making a difference in their communities.

"No one succeeds alone, and that is especially true in rural areas, where friends and neighbors in tight-knit communities support, encourage and inspire each other," said General Manager Jeremy Huhnstock. "Those people don't do it for the recognition, but they deserve to be recognized, and we'd like to help make that happen."

Member-owners, employees, organizations and residents who live, work or support communities within the service territory of the region's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are eligible to be nominated. Nominations will be accepted February 1 through April 19, 2026. Three final winners will be selected by a panel of judges based on the impact that they have on the community. Weekly finalists will be announced and featured on Keloland Living starting March 12, 2026, and the three contest winners will be announced on Keloland Living on May 28, 2026.

The Who Powers You contest grand prize winner will receive a \$3,000 prize. A second-place winner will receive \$1,500, and the contest's third-place winner will receive \$500.

"As an electric cooperative, our services extend beyond delivering safe, affordable and reliable power to our member-owners," said Huhnstock. "The Who Powers You contest highlights the commitment of our co-op to the communities and member-owners that we serve. We know that our co-op community is filled with people making a difference. Let's celebrate them!" 5272

To learn more about the Who Powers You contest and to nominate someone in your community, visit [WhoPowersYouContest.com](https://www.whopowersyoucontest.com). ▶

December 2025 Capital Credit Checks - Invalid Address List

Name	Address	Years In Service
Carl Arroyo	Barrett MN	2009-2010
Chris O Blue Jr	New Effington SD	2007-2014
Mary Brink	St Petersburg FL	2009-2011
Steph Ebsen	Chetek WI	2009-2010
Kim Head	Elbow Lake MN	2008-2011
Craig or Sally Johnson	St Cloud MN	2008-2012
Barbara Jorgensen Trust	Marshall MN	1973-2017
Shelly Joyce	Tintah MN	2007-2009
Dawn Kellen	Ortonville MN	1991-2015
Kristofer Morgan	Wendell	2001-2009
Andreas Neumann	Dilworth MN	2009-2017
Roxanna Patton	Wheaton MN	2008-2009
Rural Cellular Corp	Columbus OH	1994-2011
Kayla Seifert	Dumont MN	2008-2018
Michelle Stage	Springfield MN	2009-2022
Dion Turgeon	Fergus Falls MN	2009-2011
Matt Waterworth	Newfolden MN	2009-2014

Thank you!



Thank you to everyone who attended our district meetings held at the end of January and beginning of February. If you weren't able to attend this year, we hope to see you at next year's district meetings. 📌



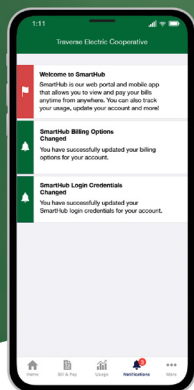
Free junk poles and wire spools.

Call 800-927-5443 and ask for Bob or Chris.



ALERTS & NOTIFICATIONS

Receive the information you need to make the right decisions about your account.

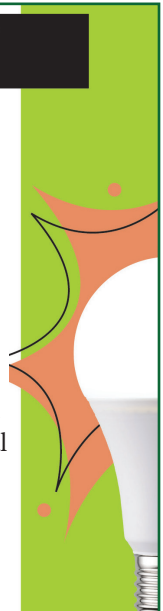


Sign up for outage notifications on SmartHub to receive an email and/or text notification when your meter reports an outage and when power has been restored.

Visit traverseelectric.com/smarthub for more information!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As spring arrives, take advantage of milder temperatures to save energy at home. Open windows on pleasant days to bring in fresh air instead of running your HVAC system. It's also a great time to replace dirty air filters, which helps your system run more efficiently and improves indoor air quality. As daylight increases, turn off unnecessary lights and rely on natural sunlight when possible. Small seasonal adjustments like these can reduce energy use, lower monthly bills and help keep your home comfortable as winter transitions into spring.



February 2026 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The February regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 9 AM.

- Absent: Glynn and Gaulrapp.
- 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 January regular board meeting were approved.
- The January check register was approved.
- Discussed the East River and Basin Electric video reports, and the NRECA training video: *Cybersecurity: Communicating During a Crisis*.
- Diekmann gave an East River Board Report.
- Gaulrapp, Marks, and Monson reported on the East River Energize Forum.
- 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:
 - ◊ January 31, 2026 accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
 - ◊ A list of new members was reviewed.
 - ◊ Update on Electrical Dept. and Generator Program.

- ◊ East River power bill and Basin's financial reports reviewed.
- Reviewed and approved the January 2026 Financial Report.
- The Operations Report was presented per written report. Items included:
 - ◊ Provided a crew update.
 - ◊ Material has been ordered for upcoming projects and working on material for grants.
 - ◊ Reported on new services planned in 2026.
 - ◊ Reviewed our Safety Program.
 - ◊ Outages were reviewed.
- Approved renting the 93 acres of farmland to Adam Lichtsinn for 2026.
- Annual Meeting will be held March 19, 2026 beginning at 6:30 PM at the Wheaton High School.
- District Meetings recently held were reviewed.
- Accepted the 2026 Cogeneration and DER Report.
- Approved revisions to Rate Q.
- Selected the 2026 Washington DC Youth Tour winner.
- Selected 2026 Scholarship recipients.
- Approved revisions to Policy 505.
- Reviewed upcoming meetings and attendees.
- Meeting adjourned. ▶

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
 Tristan Varpness – Journeyman Lineworker
 Tayden George – Journeyman 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.

TEC January 2026 Financials

	Jan 2025	Jan 2026	YTD 2026
Total Revenue.	\$1,427,443.79	\$2,173,744.48	\$2,173,744.48
Cost of Power.	\$715,636.79	\$906,875.17	\$906,875.17
Total Cost of Service.	\$1,211,173.10	\$1,330,373.88	\$1,330,373.88
Operating Margins	\$216,270.69	\$843,370.60	\$843,370.60
Total Margins	\$227,754.79	\$851,203.38	\$851,203.38
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased	13,744,445	13,615,223	13,615,223
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales . . .	13,073,395	12,971,932	12,971,932
Line Loss.	4%	4%	4%