

CIRCUITS

NEWS FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS



Roadside safety: Move over, please

Kevin Fowler, manager of safety services

Electric utility crews face a multitude of hazards every day. Electricity is one of those hazards and crews understand just how dangerous it is. Electricity, however, is fairly predictable and somewhat controllable when you are professionally trained to work with it. As the manager of safety services at Dakota Electric, it's the hazards we cannot control that truly concern me, such as inattentive driving.

There are many Dakota Electric employees working alongside the road every day, including lineworkers, meter readers, field engineers, cable locators and project managers, to name a few.

The main hazard associated with this work is traffic. As traffic congestion and speed increase, so do the hazards.

Dakota Electric employees take many precautions to mitigate roadside hazards. They use temporary traffic signs, wear high visibility clothing and turn on flashing warning lights on their vehicles. Still, workers get hurt and killed in construction zones every year due to inattentive driving. Fortunately for Dakota Electric, we have not had a serious injury or death related to this, but we have had plenty of close calls.

This year, the state legislature added a

provision to the transportation safety bill that requires drivers to move over when they see a utility truck parked along the side of the road. On behalf of Dakota Electric, I would like to thank our state legislators for working hard to get this provision passed and recognizing the importance of roadside safety for utility workers, much like that of police officers and emergency responders.

So next time you see a Dakota Electric vehicle parked along the side of the road, please move over. Nothing will help our employees more than giving them space and a safe zone to work. Thank you!

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Upcoming events

Dakota County Fair	Aug. 10-16
Board Meeting	Aug. 27, 8:30 a.m.

August 2015



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Dakota Electric researches advanced metering infrastructure (AMI)

Over the last several years, a team of employees at Dakota Electric Association has been researching the feasibility, cost and benefits associated with advanced metering infrastructure (AMI).

AMI is more than just automated meter reading. It provides a system-wide communications infrastructure which allows a direct link to utility equipment helping to perform metering, load management, voltage controls, distribution automation and the ability to exchange information with members.

Dakota Electric continues to evaluate this technology as a way to better serve our member-owners. Although this technology would be new to Dakota Electric, it has been implemented by utilities around the country who have proven its benefits for improving customer service and overall efficiencies.

If Dakota Electric implemented AMI, it would diminish the need for estimating electrical use and the resulting billing inquiries. Members would benefit from improved proactive out-

age management detection along with tools available for them to monitor daily usage. AMI would improve efficiency and turn-around time needed for outage restoration and disconnection/reconnection of meters. It would also provide the foundation to offer members new money-saving rate options and energy management solutions.

No decisions have been made yet, according to Dakota Electric President and CEO Greg Miller. He says the decision to proceed with AMI will come at the end of 2016, at the earliest.

As AMI technologies continue to mature, the cooperative plans to continue researching opportunities available with future AMI implementation.

"We will continue to look at new technologies like AMI to improve our service," said Miller. "However, we will only invest in these technologies if we are confident it will provide value and benefits to our member-owners."

Benefits of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

RELIABILITY	EFFICIENCY	AFFORDABILITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Help locate and respond to outages faster.• Enhanced monitoring to help improve power quality.• Help monitor two-way power flow to member-owned generation (solar).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Automated meter reading saves time and money compared to manually reading more than 100,000 meters every month.• With more detailed data about demand and usage, we can distribute power more efficiently.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operating more efficiently can help minimize cost increases.• We can use the new data to help our members manage their energy use.

Thank you for checking the **conservation gauge**

The conservation gauge alerts members when the demand for electricity is especially high and utilities must pay more for wholesale electricity.

- Visit dakotaelectric.com and sign up to receive email alerts on peak-use days.
- Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter for the latest news and updates.



Register to attend our annual wind farm tour

Dakota Electric's popular wind tours offer an up-close look at an operating wind farm. Space is limited, so sign up early! Tours fill quickly on a first-come,first-served basis.

Tour dates

Tours will take place on Sept. 17 and 18. Each tour leaves Dakota Electric's headquarters in Farmington at 8 a.m. and returns at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Tour stops

McNeilus Wind Farm, located in Dodge Center, Minn., includes 41 turbines. Members will have the opportunity to go inside the base of a turbine and talk to an engineer.

Pleasant Valley Station, near Sargeant, Minn., is a natural gas peaking plant that generates electricity during times of high electricity demand.

Register online

- **THURSDAY, SEPT. 17** - <http://deawindtour917.eventbrite.com>
- **FRIDAY, SEPT. 18** - <http://deawindtour918.eventbrite.com>

If you have questions, contact Brenda at 651-463-6234. Registration deadline is Thursday, Sept. 10. The cost is \$10 per person and includes transportation and lunch.

Due to limited space, we request that members who have previously attended a tour please let others attend. Children must be at least 12 years old and accompanied by an adult.



Do you have unclaimed capital credits waiting for you?

When you signed up to receive electric service from Dakota Electric Association, you became a member of an electric cooperative. While investor-owned utilities return a portion of any profits back to their investors, electric cooperatives allocate margins to members as "capital credits," and retire—or pay—they when the cooperative's financial condition permits. Dakota Electric has paid out capital credits to members who purchased electricity through 1986.

If you move, it is important that you inform Dakota Electric of your current address.

To determine if you, or someone you know, has capital credits waiting, visit www.dakotaelectric.com and click on About Us > Capital Credits. You can also view a list of frequently asked questions that explains how the capital credits process works.

For more information, call 651-463-6212.

Did you know?

Some members are eligible to make an early withdrawal of their capital credit account balance at a discounted rate. Those members must meet one of the following criteria:

- Age 65 and older
- The funds belong to an estate

The board of directors has approved the policy of discounting early capital credit payouts so that all are made on a fair and equal basis with those who will have to wait for their payments. For example, \$10 received in cash today is worth more than \$10 received 20 years from now.

If you meet one of the above criteria and would like to request a discounted payout, contact Dakota Electric at 651-463-6212 or email capitalcredits@dakotaelectric.com.

2015 Energy Efficiency Rebates

Members can view complete rebate details and print a rebate application by visiting either the Residential or Business tab at www.dakotaelectric.com, then choosing Programs & Rebates. Funds are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis and are subject to change without notice. For more information, call the Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243.



Heating & Cooling		
Heat Pump Systems	Tune-up	\$25
	Ductless air-source heat pump	\$300
	Air-source heat pump SEER 13-16+	Up to \$630
	Ground-source heat pump	\$400 / ton
Central Air Conditioner	Tune-up	\$25
	Central air conditioner SEER 13-16+	Up to \$330
Cycled Air Conditioning®	Monthly bill credit for participating central air conditioners	\$12 ea. June, July and August
Electric Thermal Storage Heating System	Installed on Energy Wise® storage program	\$25 / kw
ECM Furnace Motor	Purchase new furnace with ECM motor or add it to existing furnace	\$100

Appliances		
Dehumidifier	Must be ENERGY STAR® rated	\$25
Refrigerator	Must be ENERGY STAR rated. Requires recycling of the replaced unit	\$75
Freezer	Must be ENERGY STAR rated. Requires recycling of the replaced unit	\$75
Working Refrigerator/Freezer Harvest (recycling only)	Does not require purchase of a new ENERGY STAR appliance; must be in working order.	\$75

Water Heaters		
Heat Pump Water Heater	Must be ENERGY STAR rated	\$300
Electric Water Heater	New construction installation: high-efficiency 105-gallon electric water heater controlled on Energy Wise off-peak program.	\$300
	Replacement of non-controlled electric water heater with high-efficiency 105-gallon electric water heater controlled on Energy Wise off-peak program.	\$300

Lighting		
LEDs	ENERGY STAR rated (encouraged)	Up to \$5 / bulb
CFLs	ENERGY STAR rated	Up to \$1 / bulb
LED Yard Light (member-owned)	LED light fixture	\$30

Misc.		
Pool Pump Variable Speed Motor	Must be ENERGY STAR rated	\$200
Heat Pump Pool Heater	Coefficient of Performance (COP) of 5.0	\$400
Electric Vehicle Charger Installation	Level 1 and Level 2 chargers qualify	Up to \$500
Solar Installation	Monthly payment based on kilowatt-hour (kWh) production as recorded by Dakota Electric's production meter.	\$0.50/watt of installed solar, not to exceed \$4K.

Commercial & Agricultural Rebates		
Custom EnergyGrant <i>For unique, industry-specific projects not covered by other rebates, such as:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Management Systems (EMS) Energy recovery ventilators Process improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data center efficiency improvements Window film
Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New construction lighting Retrofit lighting upgrade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Induction or LED projects LED traffic lights
Motors and Drives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variable frequency drives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Premium efficiency motors
Heating, Cooling and Ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tune-ups Ground-source heat pumps Air-source heat pumps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central air conditioners Cooling equipment, i.e. chillers, cooling towers, etc.
Agricultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Milking vacuum pump VFD Milk transfer pump VFD Energy-efficient lighting Scroll compressors for bulk tank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microzone control systems Waste heat exchangers and frame-type milk pre-coolers VFD for irrigation systems

Dakota Electric delivers service in multiple languages

Attention. Dakota Electric uses translators to help us speak with you in your native language. Please call 651-463-6212 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Atención. Dakota Electric utiliza el servicio de traductores para que nos ayuden a comunicarnos con usted en su idioma nativo. Llame al 651-463-6212 de lunes a viernes entre las 7 a.m. y las 7 p.m.

Degtooni. Dokota waaxdeeda korontadu waxay isticmaashaa turjumaa ka caawiya iney kugula hadlaan luqadaada aad u dhalatey. Fadlan soo wac 651-463-6212 inta u dhaxaysa 7 a.m iyo 7 p.m. Sabtida ilaa Jimcaha.

Внимание! Компания Dakota Electric пользуется услугами переводчиков, чтобы облегчить общение с вами на вашем родном языке. Обращайтесь, пожалуйста, по телефону 651-463-6212 между 7.00 и 19.00 с понедельника по пятницу.

Lus tshaj tawm. Dakota Electric siv neeg txhais lus los pab peb hais lus rau koj uas yog hais koj yam lus. Thov hu rau 651-463-6212 nruab nrab ntawm 7 moo sawv ntxov thiab 7 moo tsausntuj. Hnub Monday txog rau Friday.



LAST MONTH TO SAVE

on your next purchase of GE ENERGY STAR® certified CFL and LED bulbs.

UP TO **\$10 OFF**

select GE ENERGY STAR® light bulbs at participating Walmart stores

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Home Lighting Promotion ends August 31, 2015.

Visit energywisemn.com to learn more and enter for a chance to win a \$500 VISA gift card.

ENERGY WISE  MN

Due to the presence of mercury, CFLs must be recycled. In Minnesota, it is illegal to place them directly in the garbage.

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Paid Advertisements: For more information about advertising in *Circuits* call 651-463-6270.

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A downed power line may not be a dead line. It could cause serious injury or death. Call 911 to report a downed line and keep others away until help arrives.





Circuits Quick Clips



Commercial members: Join us for this year's Energy Wise® Expo on Sept. 17

Thursday, Sept. 17
11 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Brackett's Crossing Country Club
17976 Judicial Rd., Lakeville, MN 55044

Approximately 50 vendors will be on hand to provide information on topics such as HVAC, building automation, data center design, water conservation, facility engineering and design, and much more! Enjoy food and beverages while you consult with the experts, network with your peers and learn how to run your business more efficiently.

Why you should attend:

- Learn about new and emerging technologies
- Open forum — come and go as your schedule permits
- Meet vendor/manufacturer partners of Dakota Electric Association and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative
- Network with energy and facility manager peers
- Drawings for valuable products and services

This year's event will feature eight 20-minute "tech tip" presentations. Topics and times are still being finalized. Visit www.dakotaelectric.com for up-to-date information as it becomes available.

Dakota Electric's Energy Wise Expo is being held in conjunction with Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative of Jordan, Minn. and Great River Energy of Maple Grove, Minn.



Food safety during a power outage

If the power is out for less than four hours, the food in your refrigerator and freezer will be safe to consume. While the power is out, keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to keep food cold longer. If the power is out for longer than four hours, follow the guidelines below:

- For the freezer section: A freezer that is half full will hold food safely for up to 24 hours. A full freezer will hold food safely for 48 hours. Do not open the freezer door if you can avoid it.
- For the refrigerated section: Pack milk, other dairy products, meat, fish, eggs and spoilable leftovers into a cooler surrounded by ice. Inexpensive styro-foam coolers are fine for this purpose.
- Use a food thermometer to check the temperature of your food right before you cook or eat it. Throw away any food that has a temperature of more than 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

- Source: CDC



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Please read and recycle.

Greg Miller, President & CEO

Tanya Wolfs, Editor



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



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Is it time for a new refrigerator?

Dakota Electric provides a \$75 rebate* to members who purchase
an ENERGY STAR® refrigerator.

**Rebate requires recycling of the replaced unit.*

For more details on other residential and commercial rebate offers, see page 5.

Contact Us

Member service & drive-up window

7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday - Friday

651-463-6212 or 1-800-874-3409

Minnesota Relay Service 711

Lobby 7 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday

4300 220th Street West, Farmington, MN 55024

24-hour outage & emergency service

651-463-6201 or 1-800-430-9722

Underground cable locations

Gopher State One Call 811 or 651-454-0002 or

1-800-252-1166

Tree trimming & street lights 651-463-6287

Dakota Electric is an equal opportunity/
affirmative action employer

www.dakotaelectric.com

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Program information and offers in this newsletter
are subject to change without notice.