

CIRCUITS

NEWS FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS



Great River Energy to end operations at Stanton Station

Great River Energy has announced plans to retire the Stanton Station power plant by May 2017 because the plant is no longer economic to operate with current low prices in the regional energy market. Stanton Station is located near Stanton in Mercer County, N.D.

"Stanton Station has provided dependable electricity to Great River Energy's member cooperatives for 50 years," said David Saggau, Great River Energy president and CEO. "The plant's long and successful record was possible thanks to a talented staff and supportive community."

"After careful consideration of several alternatives, it became clear that retiring the plant was in the best interest of our member cooperatives," Saggau added.

Recently, Stanton Station has been generating electricity on a limited basis due to economic conditions. During that time, it has often been more affordable to operate other plants or purchase power from the regional market.

"We are making every effort to minimize impacts on our employees and the community through this transition," Saggau said. "We are providing Stanton Station employees with a number of support resources and services whether or not they continue working for Great River Energy at another location."

Great River Energy continues to operate the Coal Creek Station power plant, which is located northeast of Stanton, and the Spiritwood Station plant near Jamestown, N.D. Great River Energy is

the majority owner of Midwest AgEnergy Group which owns and operates two ethanol plants and related facilities in North Dakota. Great River Energy also maintains a number of transmission facilities in the state. "We remain a committed partner in North Dakota's energy industry," Saggau said.

Great River Energy is developing plans to decommission Stanton Station in a responsible manner that will safeguard the local environment and assure the safety and security of the local community.

Stanton Station, which began generating power in 1966, has a generating capacity of 189 megawatts.

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Upcoming events

Dakota County Fair..... Aug. 8-14
Board Meeting August 25, 8:30 a.m.

August 2016



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

On-the-job apprentices training

Dakota Electric's pole yard offers safe environment for hands-on learning

Every year Dakota Electric provides week-long training specifically for its apprentice lineworkers. The training covers all aspects of working with energized power lines in a safe, de-energized environment.

Apprentice lineworkers have a degree in electrical line work, but they must complete a four-year apprenticeship program before they can receive their certificate as a journeyman lineworker.

"Our apprentices spend a week in our pole yard with experienced journeyman lineworkers simulating energized power line work," said John Ginther, utility services superintendent. "It's a way for them to gain a variety of skills, ask questions and learn from their mistakes."

Electric utility line work consistently

ranks as one of the most dangerous professions in the country. That is why safety is so important at Dakota Electric.

"This training provides a safe environment for the apprentices," said Dean Jablonski, Dakota Electric crew chief. "We are able to


teach them how we do things and expose them to certain situations, so they know how to handle it safely when they are working on energized power lines."


Near the end of their apprenticeship, the lineworkers also spend a week in Dakota Electric's system control center where they learn the behind-the-scenes



responsibilities of distribution system operations, power restoration and power switching.

Ginther says the training has paid off and his trainers can see the difference it has made from one year to the next. "We really want a well-rounded individual when all is said and done."



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“The things we do in training are common situations that we would experience out in the field, however, we don't regularly get a chance to experience them. The week-long training is a nice refresher, and practice makes perfect.”

- Patrick Emond, apprentice



“My skills have improved significantly over the last four years.”

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 1987.

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.

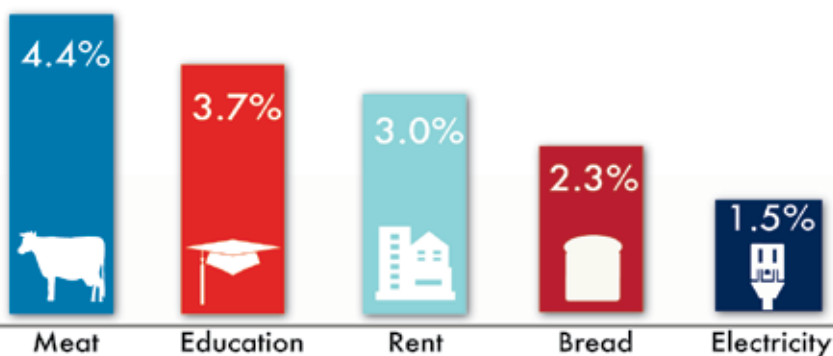
For more information, call 651-463-6212.

Electricity Remains a Good Value

The cost of powering your home rises at a slower pace than many of your typical expenses.

Compare the average national price increases of these expenses each year over the last five years and the value of electricity shines.

Average annual price increase 2010-2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

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.

Eagan couple takes advantage of Dakota Electric's Revolt program

The Danielsons are going green, charging their electric vehicle with 100 percent wind energy

After owning a Toyota Prius and enjoying the benefits of a highly-efficient hybrid vehicle, Nathan and Jodi Danielson knew they wanted to work towards owning an electric vehicle (EV) and being even more environmentally-friendly. That dream came true earlier this year when they purchased a Chevy Volt, a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV).

Around the same time they purchased their Chevy Volt, Dakota Electric had just announced its new Revolt program, which allows EV owners to charge their vehicle with 100 percent wind energy.

"It was a win-win for us," said Nathan. "We have always worked towards being green and using as much renewable energy as we can. We have a geothermal heat pump in our house, we now drive an electric vehicle charged completely by wind energy and in the future we are looking to add solar panels to our home."

In addition to Revolt, the Danielsons took advantage of the ChargeWise rebate by installing a Level 2 charger and enroll-

ing in Dakota Electric's off-peak electric storage rate. That rate offers the lowest-cost, off-peak electricity (4.54 cents/kWh) for charging an EV, but the hours available are the most restrictive (11 p.m. - 7 a.m.). Nathan says he plugs their EV in every night and only spent around \$12 last month to charge it.

"We have been pleasantly surprised with the cost-effectiveness of our electric vehicle," said Nathan. "And it's really cool knowing we are charging it completely with renewable energy."

Members who enroll in Revolt will receive 100 percent wind energy for the lifetime of the EV at no additional cost. Participants will also receive a welcome packet containing their certificate of renewable energy credits (RECs) and a medalion that can be mounted on the EV showcasing their participation in the Revolt program.

To learn more, visit dakotaelectric.com/programs/electric-vehicles or contact the Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243.

What EVs are eligible for Revolt?

- 1.) Plug-in electric vehicles (PEV)
- 2.) Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV).

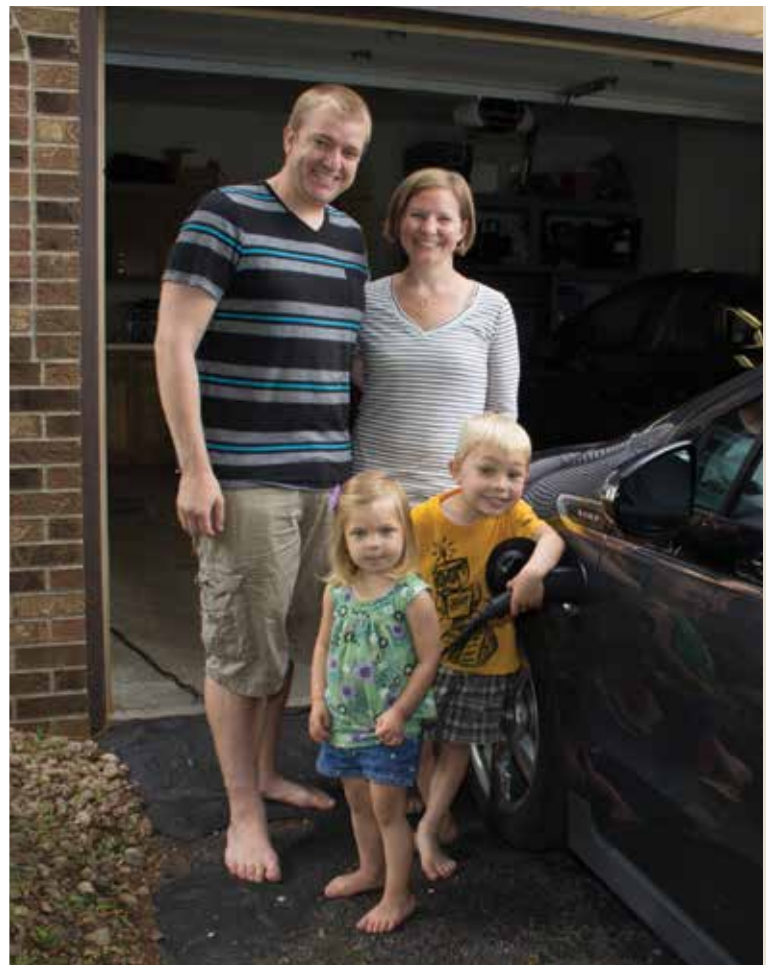
PEVs are all electric, all of the time, and have no internal combustion engine or gas tank. PHEVs are the multi-taskers, running on both gas and electricity.

How do I know I'm getting 100% wind energy?

When renewable energy is added to the power grid, a renewable energy credit (REC) is created that embodies all of the environmental benefits of that energy. When you claim your Revolt upgrade, we will dedicate wind energy RECs on your behalf, completely offsetting the energy used to power your electric vehicle.

Enrolling in Revolt is easy!

- Step 1:** Buy or lease an EV. If you already have one, skip to step 2.
- Step 2:** Fill out and return the enrollment form found on our website at dakotaelectric.com/residential/programs/electric-vehicles.
- Step 3:** Submit the completed enrollment form.



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. 1 and 2. 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


<https://2016DEAwindtour.eventbrite.com>

Select the tour date you plan to attend and click register.

If you have questions, contact Brenda at 651-463-6234. Registration deadline is Friday, Aug. 26. 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.





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Circuits Quick Clips

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.

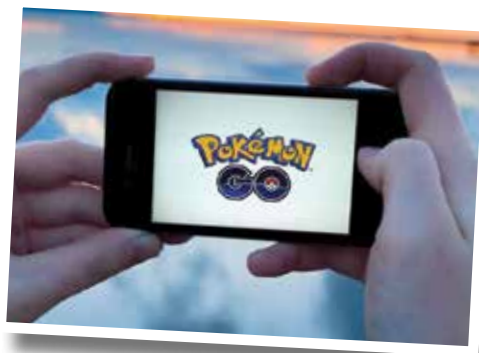
- Visit dakotaelectric.com and sign up to receive email alerts on peak-use days.
- Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter for the latest news and updates.



Play it safe: Electrical substations may be on 'Pokémon Go' app

Dakota Electric and other electric companies are urging everyone to be cautious when using the new "Pokémon Go" app and to stay away from all electrical facilities.

The app uses buildings and landmarks as gathering sites for players. The electric cooperatives learned there is discussion that players can catch electric-type Pokémon near substations and transformers.



Electrical equipment is very dangerous and should not be considered gaming locations. Electric companies urge gamers, customers and the public to stay away from substations, all power lines and equipment on utility poles and underground electrical facilities commonly identifiable as those green boxes in neighborhood yards.

Never attempt to enter substations, go over a fence or climb utility poles to try and reach transformers. Serious injury or death can occur.

If someone sees activity where a person is trying to get into a substation or climb an electrical pole, you are encouraged to call 9-1-1 first, and then call Dakota Electric at 651-463-6201.

Take advantage of Energy Wise® off-peak programs

Dakota Electric offers a wide variety of Energy Wise off-peak programs to save you money on your monthly bill while helping to keep energy prices down for everyone.

By participating in an Energy Wise off-peak program, members agree to let Dakota Electric interrupt power to particular devices when the demand for electricity is high.

Qualifying loads include:

- Electric water heaters
- Heat pumps
- Central air conditioners
- Electric heat
- Hot tubs and swimming pools
- Electric vehicles

To learn more, visit dakotaelectric.com or call the Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243.

Fall 2016 Parade of HomesSM Sept. 10 - Oct. 2

Dakota Electric will feature electric thermal storage (ETS) water heating and Cycled Air Conditioning® at some of the model homes throughout its service territory. Watch for more details in next month's *Circuits*.



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Program information and offers in this newsletter
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