

JUNE 2020

# CIRCUITS

FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS

RENEWABLE  
ENERGY TO  
REPLACE  
COAL CREEK

Pages 2 & 3

**DAKOTA<sup>®</sup>  
ELECTRIC**  
ASSOCIATION  
Your Touchstone Energy 

**4**

## CO-OP CORNER

Election results and information  
on Member Appreciation Event

**5**

## SAFETY

Be prepared for  
power outages

**6**

## SPECIAL SAVINGS

Enhanced rebates and  
promotions

## 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

Temporarily Closed  
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*

### Dakotaelectric.com

customerservice@dakotaelectric.com

*Dakota Electric Association® and Dakota Electric®  
are registered service marks of the cooperative.*

*All programs and rebates are subject to change  
without notice. Funds are limited and available  
on a first-come, first-served basis.*

## Dakota Electric Association

# BOARD of Directors

### DISTRICT 1

John (Jack) DeYoe  
David Jones  
Gerald F. Pittman | *Chair*

### DISTRICT 2

Jim Sheldon | *Treasurer*  
Clay Van De Bogart | *GRE Director*  
Bill Middlecamp

### DISTRICT 3

Kenneth H. Danner  
William F. Holton | *Secretary*  
Margaret D. Schreiner | *GRE Director*

### DISTRICT 4

Paul Bakken | *Vice Chair*  
Judy H. Kimmes  
Stacy Miller | *Interim MREA Director*



# Power Supply Changes

## Delivering what members want

**Dakota Electric's wholesale power provider, Great River Energy, recently announced plans to transform its portfolio of power supply resources, reducing Dakota Electric's wholesale power costs by over 10% in the coming years.**

Great River Energy plans to phase out remaining coal resources and add renewable energy in Minnesota — starting with plans to retire the 1,151-megawatt (MW) Coal Creek Station power plant in the second half of 2022. Great River also plans to modify the 99-MW coal and natural gas plant in Spiritwood, N.D., to be fueled primarily on natural gas by the end of 2022. As a result, Great River Energy's power supply resources will be more than 95% carbon dioxide free.

In-depth analysis over the past few months has continued to support the economic case for shutdown. This decision was made in the best interest of member-owner cooperatives, like Dakota Electric, and will reduce Great River Energy's costs, saving money for Dakota Electric's membership over the long term.

"We are building a power supply portfolio that will serve our member-owner cooperatives for decades," Great River Energy President and Chief Executive Officer David Saggau said.

Great River Energy plans to purchase more than 1,100 MW from new wind energy projects, increasing their renewable capacity from approximately 660 MW in 2020 to more than 1,760 MW by the end of 2023. In May, the Great River Energy board of directors approved 600 MW of wind energy projects, most located in Minnesota. To provide continuous electricity, the cooperative plans to upgrade its fleet of gas-fired power generators and increase purchases from the wholesale energy market.

The announcement follows several changes Great River Energy made in recent years to seek economic efficiencies in its power supply portfolio. Past analysis led to decisions to exit a contract for half the output of a Wisconsin coal plant in 2015, retire the coal-based Stanton Station power plant in 2017, close the waste-to-energy Elk River Resource Recovery Project in 2019 and purchase the output of several wind energy projects.

Dakota Electric's goal is to provide reliable and affordable electricity, while being responsible stewards of the environment. We are excited to see what our future holds over the next few years.





Great River Energy's president and chief executive officer, David Saggau.



Board members Margaret Schreiner and Clay Van De Bogart represent Dakota Electric on the board of directors at Great River Energy.



Great River Energy's vice president and chief power supply officer, Jon Brekke.

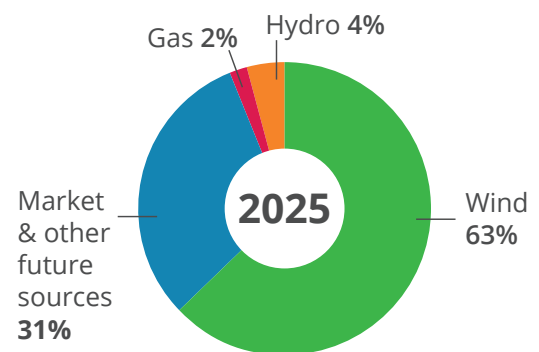
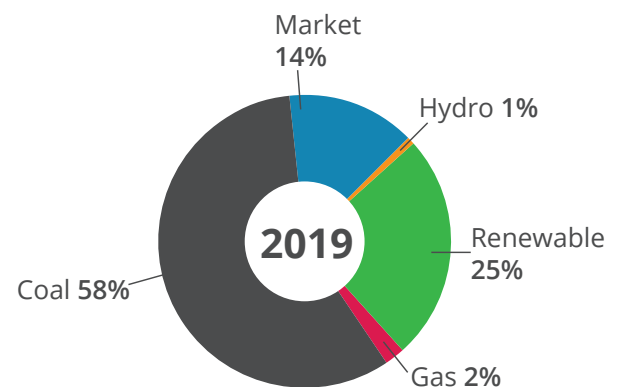


GRE plans to add 1,100 MW of new wind energy purchases by 2023. Four of the new wind energy projects will be located in southern Minnesota and another wind project will be in South Dakota.



Great River Energy will close Coal Creek Station in the second half of 2022. Located in Underwood, ND, the power plant is the largest coal-fired generation station in North Dakota.

## Projected Energy Mix Comparison



Keeping power  
reliable and  
affordable



Continuing to  
reduce carbon  
dioxide emissions



Adding cleaner  
electricity  
sources



# SPECIAL SAVINGS

During these uncertain times, Dakota Electric would like to provide enhanced rebates and special promotions for its members. Offers are available beginning June 1, 2020, through September 30, 2020. Learn more by contacting the Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243 or email [energyexperts@dakotaelectric.com](mailto:energyexperts@dakotaelectric.com). Please shop locally and support our communities!

Special Promotions	Description	Amount
Heat Pump Systems	Tuneup	\$50
	ENERGY STAR® Ductless air-source heat pump	\$450 to \$750
	*Air-source heat pump (> 8.2 or > 9.0 HSPF) (Registered Contractor Required)	\$1,000 or \$2,000
Central Air Conditioner	Tuneup	\$50
	Central air conditioner SEER 15-16+ (Registered Contractor Required)	\$380 to \$430
Water Heaters	*First-time enrollment on an Energy Wise® Interruptible Program	\$250
	*First-time enrollment on an Energy Wise Storage Program	\$500
ENERGY STAR Refrigerator	Requires recycling of the replaced unit	\$150
ENERGY STAR Freezer	Requires recycling of the replaced unit	\$150
Working Refrigerator/Freezer Harvest (recycling only)	Does not require purchase of a new ENERGY STAR appliance; must be in working order.	\$150
Dehumidifier	Must be ENERGY STAR rated	\$50
Electric Dryer	Must be ENERGY STAR rated	\$50

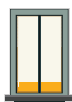
**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** Rebate amounts are based on energy-efficiency ratings. Some rebate applications are only available through registered contractors. Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice. \*Equipment must be installed on an Energy Wise interruptible or storage program to qualify.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: [DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM](http://DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM) > [MEMBER SERVICES](#) > [PROGRAMS & REBATES](#) > [FOR YOUR HOME](#) > [PROMOTIONS](#)

## Summer Energy-Saving Tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy-efficiency tips!



Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.



Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room. Fans cool people, not rooms.



Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install, low maintenance and provide free electricity.



Schedule regular maintenance for your cooling equipment to maximize efficiency.



On hot days, avoid using the oven; cook on the stove, use a microwave or grill outside.



Replace disposable air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency. Or follow manufacturer's guidelines.



Install a programmable thermostat to easily adjust the temperature when you are sleeping or away from home.



Seal cracks and openings to prevent warm air from leaking into your home.

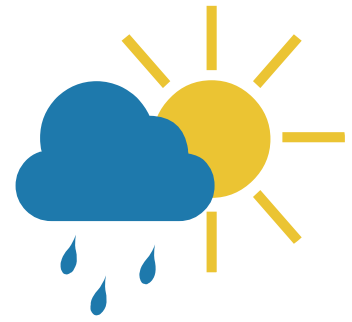
Source: NRECA



FOR MORE ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS, VISIT: [DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM](http://DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM) > [SAVE ENERGY SAVE MONEY](#)



# BE PREPARED FOR POWER OUTAGES



**Dakota Electric's reliability ranks among the best in the nation, but summer storm season is upon us and outages can happen for a number of reasons.** That is why we want to remind you to prepare for storms and power outages by planning ahead, preparing an emergency kit and updating the phone number(s) associated with your account.



## BE INFORMED

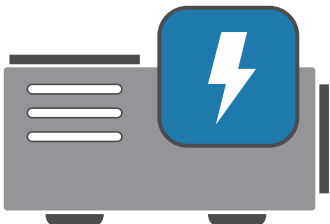
There are three ways you can report a power outage.

1. Call us at **651-463-6201**.
  2. Report it online at [www.dakotaelectric.com/power-outages/](http://www.dakotaelectric.com/power-outages/).
  3. Download our free outage app from the Apple Store or Google Play.
- Find more information on the back page.



## BE PREPARED

Both our online and automated phone reporting systems use the phone number associated with your account to locate your residence during an outage. Update your number by calling us at **651-463-6212** or visiting [www.dakotaelectric.com](http://www.dakotaelectric.com). Additionally, take some time to prepare an emergency kit for longer outages. Include non-perishable food items, a manual can opener, bottled water, a first aid kit, a battery-powered weather radio and a flashlight with extra batteries.



## BE SAFE

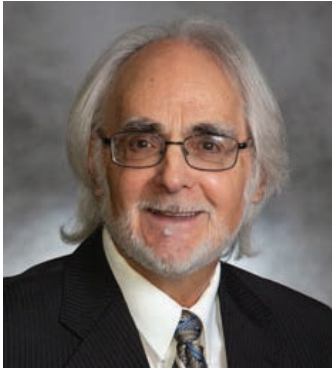
Standby generators can supply electricity to your home or business during a power outage, but only if they are properly installed and maintained. To ensure proper installation and electrical code compliance, contact a qualified electrician. Always remember to stay away from downed power lines and/or trees and branches that are caught in a power line. A downed power line may still be energized.



## BE PATIENT

We understand power outages are an inconvenience to our members. Our number one goal is keeping the lights on, but sometimes power outages still occur. Dakota Electric's average outage restoration time is usually less than 70 minutes, but restoration times will vary depending on the cause of the outage. Please know our crews will work quickly and safely to restore power to your home or business. We appreciate your patience.

# Election Results



**John (Jack) DeYoe**  
District: 1 | Incumbent



**Bill Middlecamp**  
District: 2



**Margaret D. Schreiner**  
District: 3 | Incumbent



**Paul Bakken**  
District: 4 | Incumbent

While the 2020 Annual Meeting was canceled due to COVID-19, the election process continued with voting taking place by mail and online. Dakota Electric Association's membership reelected three incumbents and elected one new board member.

Members who wish to watch the 2020 annual meeting reports should visit: <https://www.dakotaelectric.com/about-us/board-of-directors/>.

Here is a brief overview of the reports:

- President and Chief Executive Officer Greg Miller highlighted the company's outstanding safety record, low electric rates and reliability improvements.
- Board Chair Jerry Pittman discussed the board's work on the cooperative's strategic and operating plan.
- Pittman also gave a tribute to former board member, Janet Lekson, who passed away in February.
- Board Treasurer Jim Sheldon provided a report on the 2019 financials.

## Member Appreciation Event Canceled

Events across the nation have been canceled or postponed due to the spread of the new coronavirus. Dakota Electric's Member Appreciation Event is no exception.

Every summer, we host our Member Appreciation Event at the Minnesota Zoo. The event includes free admission and parking and draws more than 6,000 Dakota Electric members and families.

"It is with great sadness we are canceling our 2020 Member Appreciation Event," said Dakota Electric's President and Chief Executive Officer, Greg Miller. "While we are disappointed, the health, safety and well-being of our community is our top priority during this pandemic."





## Energy Assistance Resources Available:

If you are facing financial hardship, please contact Dakota Electric's member service department. We will work with you. Call **651-463-6212** or email [customerservice@dakotaelectric.com](mailto:customerservice@dakotaelectric.com).

**Scott-Carver-Dakota CAP Agency** | 651-322-3500  
2496 145th St. W., Rosemount, MN 55068

**360 Communities** | 952-985-5300  
501 East Highway 13, Suite 112, Burnsville, MN 55337

**Dakota County Economic Assistance** | 651-554-5611  
1 Mendota Road W., Suite 100, West St. Paul, MN 55118

**Goodhue County Health & Human Services** | 651-385-3200  
426 West Ave., Red Wing, MN 55066

**Three Rivers Community Action, Inc.** | 507-316-0610  
1414 North Star Dr., Zumbrota, MN 55992

**Rice County Social Services** | 507-332-6115  
320 3rd St. NW., Faribault, MN 55021

**Scott County Human Services** | 952-445-7751  
200 4th Ave. W., Shakopee, MN 55379

## Summer Rates Now in Effect

Summer rates better reflect the cost of electricity in the summer when increased electricity use drives up the demand and cost of electricity. Dakota Electric pays more for wholesale power each summer, which is why members pay more per kWh each June, July and August.

By reducing your energy use, you can lower your monthly electric bill this summer. Looking for more ways to save? Call our Energy Experts® at 651-463-6243 or email [energyexperts@dakotaelectric.com](mailto:energyexperts@dakotaelectric.com) and ask about programs, rebates and current promotions perfect for you.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:  
[DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM](http://DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM) > [MEMBER SERVICES > PROGRAMS & REBATES > FOR YOUR HOME](#)

## Change Habits to SAVE ENERGY

You can save money by decreasing your power use. Here are a few tips to help you get started:

### Laundry for Less:

Full loads mean fewer cycles, and running your washer and dryer in the late evening adds less heat and humidity to the home.



### Cool Off/Calm Down:

Turn off unnecessary lighting and electronics that generate heat, resist the urge to turn down the thermostat and remember, lower fan settings use less energy.

### Intramural Competition:

Online gaming with each active player using their own computer, display, gaming console and internet connection gets pricey. Play each other at home on one screen and save.



### Countertop Convenience:

Range or oven cooking can really warm up a kitchen. Microwaves, convection ovens, induction cooktops, Crock-Pot® and toaster ovens put more cooking heat where you need it.

Source: NRECA



## Editor's Note

Information, promotional offers and events are accurate at the time of publication. For the most up-to-date information, please visit our website [dakotaelectric.com](http://dakotaelectric.com). Thank you.

4300 220th Street West  
Farmington, MN 55024

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Board Meeting**  
June 25, 8:30 a.m.  
Board meetings are being held virtually.
- All other upcoming events are canceled until further notice.

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
DAKOTA ELECTRIC  
ASSOCIATION

## CONNECT WITH US!

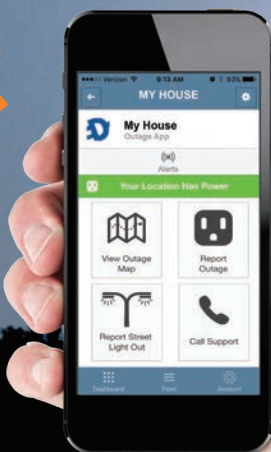


[dakotaelectric.com/event-calendar](http://dakotaelectric.com/event-calendar)

[DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM](http://DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM)

# DOWNLOAD THE OUTAGE APP

**FREE!**



Download on the  
**App Store**

GET IT ON  
**Google Play**

VISIT: [DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM](http://DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM) > POWER OUTAGES > DAKOTA ELECTRIC OUTAGE APP

## inside CIRCUITS

June 2020

For Dakota Electric Members

**RENEWABLE  
ENERGY TO  
REPLACE  
COAL CREEK**  
Pages 2 & 3

