CIRCUITS
FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER 2021

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At Dakota Electric's July board meeting, our board of directors voted to accept Great River Energy's proposal to sell Coal Creek Station in North Dakota.

The board is responsible for placing the interests of all members first in making its decisions, including safety, reliability, environmental impact and rates. As your representatives, the board is entrusted with the authority to deliberate with full and timely access to information that cannot be shared with the public during certain periods of negotiations. We can understand how some of our members were frustrated by how and when we communicated this information. Decisions of this magnitude are rare. Going forward, we can and will do a better job communicating significant decisions with our members where we can.

Taking the feedback we received, we've made some improvements in order to be more informative and transparent. A new “Power Supply” webpage, which is accessible from our website's homepage, features where your power comes from and its energy sources, more information about Great River Energy's power supply and future energy initiatives. Additionally, Dakota Electric's Environmental Disclosure Brochure is featured on this webpage.

Our homepage banner features a slide on news related to Great River Energy's power supply transformation. Visitors to our site can click “Learn More” to view the most recent information about Great River Energy's power supply changes as they progress.

We simplified our board of director's contact page and created a separate page devoted to monthly board meetings. Upcoming meeting agendas will be posted further in advance and board summaries will be more detailed. General information on board meetings is also available.

We are committed to improving the timeliness of our social media posts, the way power supply information is communicated in Circuits and how members can find this information on our website.

We are always learning, listening and improving. We will strive to do a better job of providing timely information about Dakota Electric and our power supplier, Great River Energy. We appreciate the feedback.
Dakota Electric Association, along with CoBank, one of its lenders, recently donated $20,000 to three community organizations. Dakota Electric’s $5,000 donation to 360 Communities, $2,500 donation to Dakota Woodlands and $2,500 donation to Hastings Family Services were matched by Cobank through the company’s Sharing Success grant program.

The donation to 360 Communities will help provide assistance to more than 16,000 individuals each year through holistic programming, which includes violence prevention and intervention, school success support and community resources.

The donation to Dakota Woodlands will help provide a pathway to sustainable and independent housing for homeless women and families. Located in Eagan, Dakota Woodlands can assist 22 homeless families at one time by providing a continuum of supportive services. After leaving the shelter, over 92% of the program participants succeed in staying stably housed.

The donation to Hastings Family Services will aid in emergency and supportive services for persons living in and around Hastings. The non-profit provides a wide range of client services including operating a food pantry and thrift store, providing meals on wheels, shelter, transportation and more.

“We are happy to have partnered with Dakota Electric over the last ten years through our Sharing Success program, and to provide such necessary help to quality community organizations in the area,” said John Donner of CoBank.

“We are thrilled to have the opportunity to double our donation through CoBank’s grant,” said Dakota Electric’s President and CEO Greg Miller.
FOCUS ON: Electric Bikes

Dakota County Sheriff’s Office use new e-bikes on patrol

Earlier this year, the Beneficial Electrification League (BEL) announced a grant opportunity for projects promoting beneficial electrification. Beneficial electrification means powering something with electricity that was not previously powered or was powered by an alternative source. Doing so can reduce emissions, lower energy costs, improve quality of life, and promote a robust and resilient electric grid.

Dakota Electric applied for a grant to support electrifying bicycles used by the Dakota County Sheriff’s Office bike patrol deputies and park rangers. Traditional bicycles provide deputies and rangers with a quick and nimble mode of transportation and, when compared with a vehicle, they offer increased visibility and a higher degree of connection with the community. With 42 miles of greenway trails in the Dakota County Regional park system, e-bikes can be used to further enhance safety and security in neighborhoods, parks and trailways.

We worked closely with the sheriff’s office to understand their specific use cases and how an electric bike would fit their needs. Eventually, we selected an e-bike model that could aid them in their day-to-day patrolling.

While the grant funding was ultimately not rewarded, we felt strongly that e-bikes would improve patrol performance and increase safety throughout the community. With assistance from Great River Energy, Dakota Electric purchased two TRED Allant+ 7S e-bikes from Freewheel Bike in Eagan, a Dakota Electric member, and donated them to the Dakota County Sheriff’s Office.

E-bikes look and feel a lot like regular bicycles. However, they include an electric motor and battery that can propel the bikes to speeds of up to 28 mph. Deputies and rangers can now ride farther, faster and with less fatigue. E-bikes improve the deputies’ and rangers’ ability to serve the community quickly and safely.

Since the donation, the e-bikes have traveled more than 250 miles on trails throughout the county, have been used to respond to over 280 calls and utilized at multiple community events, including the Dakota County Fair.

“I am thrilled that we were able to support the Sheriff’s Office with the e-bikes. I know the deputies and park rangers will take full advantage of the e-bikes to ensure our community is a safe place to live, work and play.”

– Kyle Chester

Dakota Electric Association, Business Account Executive

“By having these bikes, we will be able to cover more area in a timely and efficient manner especially if there is an emergency we are trying to respond to.”

– Deputy Jen Lenarz
(Pictured on front cover.)
Thursday, Sept. 30, 5-7 p.m.
Eagan Community Center
1501 Central Parkway | Eagan, MN 55121

- FREE!
- Vendor trade show
- Electric vehicle car show
- Breakout sessions
- Registration requested at:
  https://2021energytrendsexpo.eventbrite.com

ENERGY TRENDS EXPO

www.dakotaelectric.com
651-463-6243
energyservices@dakotaelectric.com

A community event sponsored by Dakota Electric Association® in cooperation with Lakeville Friends of the Environment.
DID YOU KNOW...

Dakota Electric offers electrical safety demonstrations?

Manager of safety services, Brandon Lunde, promotes safety education in our schools and local communities through electrical safety programs and safety camps.

Kids
Play It Safe Around Electricity teaches children eight and older about the dangers of electricity in a fun and interactive way.

To keep electrical safety education in our schools during the pandemic, we created the Exploring Electricity series in the spring of 2020. The three videos, each less than 10 minutes long, focus on teaching electrical safety to elementary students in a fun and engaging way. The videos are available to view on Dakota Electric’s YouTube page at www.youtube.com/user/DakotaElectric.

Adults
The power line safety demonstration dives deeper into the risks associated with electrical safety and how it plays out in our daily lives. We provide this program for public safety personnel, contractors, farmers, and other community organizations and clubs.

If you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school, organization, or community event, schedule now! Please contact Brandon Lunde at 651-463-6290 or email blunde@dakotaelectric.com.

McGruff Safe Kids ID Kit
Dakota Electric provides local law enforcement agencies throughout Dakota County, Northfield and Cannon Falls with McGruff ID kits each year. Each kit contains a personal identification section, complete with a fingerprint kit to help parents keep an up-to-date file on their child. Police officers distribute the kits to classrooms if a teacher makes a request. If you are interested in obtaining a kit, contact your local police department.

Speakers Bureau
Dakota Electric’s speakers bureau presents to schools, Rotary clubs, chambers of commerce and other community organizations on a variety of energy-related issues, including renewable energy, electric vehicles and energy efficiency. Our mascot, LED Lucy, is also available for community events. If interested, contact our coordinator of community affairs, Brenda Kadlec, at 651-463-6234 for more information.
Energy Assistance Available

We want to help our members find energy assistance resources that can help bring their account current. Minnesota’s Energy Assistance Program (EAP) recently expanded its eligibility requirements and significantly increased the amount of funding available to help members pay costs associated with heat and electricity. Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis, so it is crucial to contact an energy assistance agency as soon as possible.

If you need more time to pay the amount owed, we will work with you to establish a payment plan for your account. You can contact us Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 651-463-6212 or 1-800-874-3409, or email customerservice@dakotaelectric.com.

To apply for energy assistance, request an application or find your local service provider by:
- Call 800-657-3710 and press one.
- Visit mn.gov/commerce/consumers consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/eap-provider.jsp.
- Contact one of the local services providers listed to the right.

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 Emergency 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

Cold Weather Rule Notification

Members can avoid disconnection or be eligible for reconnection between Oct. 1 and April 30 by following steps outlined by Minnesota’s Cold Weather Rule. Your August bill statement included a Cold Weather Rule brochure with more information on program details and contact information for agencies that provide utility payment assistance.

Assistance for Military Service Personnel

If a member is ordered into active duty, for deployment or for a change of duty station, Minnesota law may protect these military personnel and their families from shutoff if they cannot pay their utility bills in full. Call 651-463-6212 to get an application and set up a payment plan. You must keep your payment plan to qualify for protection.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > BILLING & PAYMENT > ELECTRIC RATES & CONSUMER RIGHTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: WWW.DAKOTAELECTRIC.COM > BILLING & PAYMENT > FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
UPCOMING EVENTS

• **Office Closed**  
  Sept. 6, Labor Day

• **Board Meeting**  
  Sept. 30, 8:30 a.m.

• **Save The Date: Energy Trends Expo**  
  Sept. 30, 5-7 p.m.  
  Eagan Community Center

dakotaelectric.com/event-calendar

CONNECT WITH US!

Dakota County Sheriff’s Office use new e-bikes on patrol