

MARCH 2022

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FOR DAKOTA ELECTRIC MEMBERS

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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
<http://www.gopherstateonecall.org/>

Tree Trimming & Street Lights

651-463-6287

*Dakota Electric is an equal opportunity/
affirmative action employer*

Dakotaelectric.com

customerservice@dakotaelectric.com

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1

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

DISTRICT 2

Bill Middlecamp | *Treasurer*
Clay Van De Bogart | *GRE Director*
Vacant Seat

DISTRICT 3

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

DISTRICT 4

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

GREAT RIVER ENERGY UPDATE

Great River Energy Members Reaffirm Approval of Sale of Coal Creek Station & HVDC System

At a special Feb. 9 meeting, Great River Energy's member cooperatives approved the updated agreement for the sale of Coal Creek Station and the high voltage direct current (HVDC) system to Rainbow Energy Center, LLC and Nexus Line, LLC, respectively. Great River Energy's all-requirements members also approved a purchase power agreement with Apex Clean Energy for the 400-megawatt Discovery Wind Project in McLean County, North Dakota (more on page 3).

Great River Energy is building a power supply portfolio that will serve its member-owner cooperatives with clean, affordable and reliable energy for decades. The cooperative will more than double its wind energy by the end of 2025 and remains on track to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by more than 80% by 2025, achieving Minnesota's emissions target decades ahead of schedule.

Rainbow Energy Center, LLC plans to operate the 1,151-megawatt (MW) power plant using current plant employees they hire. Great River Energy will operate and maintain the HVDC system for Nexus Line, LLC using existing Great River Energy transmission employees under a 20-year contract. Discovery Wind will deliver renewable energy across the 436-mile HVDC system from North Dakota to Minnesota. Great River Energy projects these transactions could save its members approximately \$130 million over the course of the contracts.

The sale of Coal Creek Station and the HVDC system is expected to close no earlier than May 1.

Source: greatriverenergy.com/newsroom.



THE DISCOVERY WIND PROJECT

Great River Energy Announces Agreement with Apex Clean Energy for 400-Megawatt (MW) Wind Project in North Dakota

Great River Energy has reached an agreement in principle with Apex Clean Energy to purchase renewable energy from a 400-megawatt (MW) wind energy project in McLean County, North Dakota.

The Discovery Wind project, expected to reach commercial operations in 2025, will be the single largest wind project in North Dakota and will deliver renewable energy over the 436-mile high-voltage direct-current transmission (HVDC) system.

The project will fulfill a significant portion of the renewable energy needs for Great River Energy's power supply transition and deliver wind energy directly to the Twin Cities. Great River Energy announced in 2020 plans to phase out the remaining coal in its power supply portfolio and more than double its renewable energy.

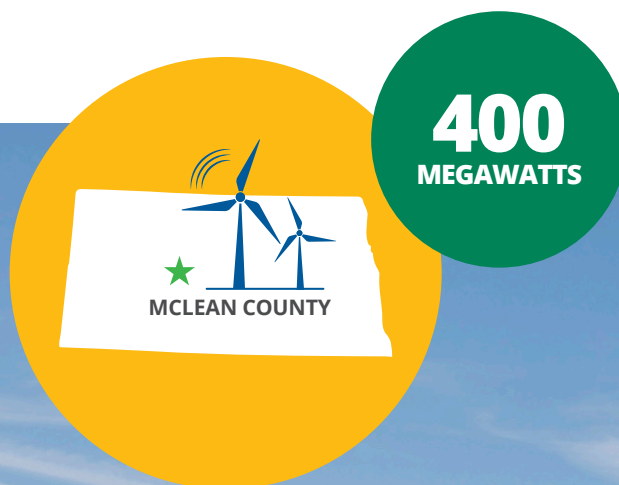
"We are transforming the way we produce electricity and serve our member-owner cooperatives," said Great River Energy President and Chief Executive Officer David Saggau. "Our members will enjoy stable wholesale electric rates for years while providing

clean and reliable energy to Minnesota and parts of Wisconsin."

Great River Energy has long had operations in McLean County through its 1,100-MW Coal Creek Station power plant and the western terminus of the HVDC transmission system. Discovery Wind's location near an existing power plant provides a unique opportunity to interconnect a large renewable energy project to the Midwest electric grid.

"Working with Great River Energy, Rainbow Energy Center and Nexus Line, not only will we deliver clean power to a major market, but we will be able to use capacity on an existing pathway to do so — a rare and valuable arrangement in the saturated MISO market," said Apex Clean Energy President and Chief Executive Officer Mark Goodwin. "This innovative solution enables the Discovery Wind project, thereby delivering a multitude of benefits to its North Dakota community, including both preserving and creating critical local jobs."

Source: [greatriverenergy.com/newsroom](https://www.greatriverenergy.com/newsroom).





SUSTAINABLE CITIES

A Greener, More Renewable Energy Source Is Powering the Cities of Burnsville and Eagan!

The cities of Burnsville and Eagan made the decision to power all city-owned facilities served by Dakota Electric, with Wellspring Renewable Energy®. Through the Dakota Electric renewable energy program, these city facilities will be powered with wind energy, which is made possible through renewable energy certificates (RECs). The RECs are created as renewable energy is generated. Each REC is unique, trackable and can only be claimed once.

By enrolling in Wellspring, Burnsville and Eagan are offsetting non-renewable generation sources. Both cities started their 10-year agreements on Jan. 1 and have 17 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) enrolled in Wellspring. This is just one of the many ways these cities are showing their commitment to environmental sustainability.

The city of Eagan works to preserve, protect and invest in their natural environment. They do this in partnership with the community through education, innovation, inclusion, engagement and empowerment. This approach has led to nearly every Eagan resident

rating their natural environment highly, and the city is continually being acknowledged as a leader in green and sustainable initiatives.

Sustainability is one of Burnsville's strategic priorities with a focus on environmental stewardship through creative and innovative approaches to natural resource conservation. Ongoing efforts include the reduction of greenhouse gases and energy use, the protection of water sources and nature, and educational outreach to empower residents and businesses to make a difference with green initiatives.

Both cities have been recognized as Step 5 GreenStep cities. The Minnesota GreenStep program is a challenge, assistance and recognition program for communities working toward sustainability actions and outcomes.

Wellspring is available to all Dakota Electric members. To learn more about Wellspring, visit www.dakotaelectric.com/renewable-energy/wellspring-renewable-energy.





EAGAN

Bike & Pedestrian Plan



- Currently have 120 miles of trails and 35 miles of sidewalk
- 10-year plan has 100+ connection opportunities

Renewable Energy



- Wellspring program participation
- 18 city-owned solar panels
- Significant users of alternative energy
- Offer energy improvement financing
- LED lighting at all city facilities
- Geothermal energy systems at arena and fire station #2

Nature Preservation



- 25.2 acres of pollinator habitat
- 20,000+ trees on public land
- Adopt-a-Storm Drain program
- Water conservation rebate program



BURNSVILLE

Sustainable Food Systems



- Food forest
- Market garden
- Community garden
- Organics drop-off site

Renewable Energy



- Wellspring program participation
- EV charging stations
- Anti-idling fire truck
- Home energy squad program
- Solar energy
- Geothermal-based energy system for ice rink

Nature Preservation



- Rain garden grant program
- Parks recycling
- Partnership to protect pollinators
- Recertified Audobon golf course
- Goats for buckthorn control

2021 TOUCHSTONE ENERGY AWARDS

Since 2005, Dakota Electric's Touchstone Energy Community Award has recognized local non-profit organizations that make a difference in the communities we serve. One winner and two runners-up are chosen from the applications received. Each receives \$500, and the winner is entered into a statewide competition for a chance at a \$1,000 prize.



Angel Foundation

Angel Foundation, Mendota Heights, is the local 2021 Touchstone Energy Community Award winner!

Angel Foundation provides financial support to adults in active treatment for cancer, living in or treated in the Twin Cities area. This program assists with non-medical basic needs such as groceries, gas, utilities and housing payments.

Over the last 20 years, Angel Foundation has provided more than \$10 million in aid to 20,000 Minnesotans.

L-R: Dir. Bill Holton, Angel Foundation VP Development Kathy Tolo, Dir. David Jones.



Midwest Special Services (MSS)

MSS in Apple Valley was a runner-up for the award.

MSS has been supporting people with disabilities for more than 70 years, and currently serves about 70 people in Apple Valley. People who are served create art, go to work, connect with friends, explore new opportunities, go to the gym and more.

L-R: Dir. David Jones, MSS Program Director Kevin McCaleb, MSS Dir. of Development Shannon Brumbaugh, Dir. Bill Holton.



BrainPower in a Backpack

BrainPower in a Backpack in Burnsville was a runner-up for the award.

BrainPower in a Backpack is a hunger relief program available for all District 191 students, providing weekend food packages whose families struggle to put enough food on the table. Each week, more than 800 students are provided with food.

Directors Stacy Miller and David Jones (in back) with volunteer students and staff.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

In accordance with Section 3, Article III, of the Bylaws of this Association, we the undersigned Nominating Committee, in a meeting held on January 25, 2022, have selected the following nominees for directorship of said Association to be on the ballot for the 2022 board elections:

DISTRICT 1

David Jones (incumbent), Jeff Nelson, Raj Rajan

DISTRICT 2

Laura Lee Berger, Terry Donnelly, Ruth Grendahl, Steven Lucas, Raymond Yarwood

DISTRICT 3

William Holton (incumbent), Aaron Decker, Donald Vasatka

DISTRICT 4

Stacy Miller (incumbent), Greg Oxley

The Nominating Committee is made up of the following people: Jeffrey Bransford, Richard Fott, Waldemar Lyslo, Terry Merritt, William Raker, Nathaniel Reitz, Loren Solfest and Patrick Williams.

RESIDENTIAL MEMBER SURVEY

Dakota Electric has hired the Morris Leatherman Company, based in Minneapolis, to conduct a residential member satisfaction survey on our behalf. Should you receive a call asking for your opinions about Dakota Electric's service, we would sincerely appreciate your feedback. Calling is scheduled to begin in March.

We know your time is valuable, so rest assured, we will use the results to help make decisions on matters important to the future of Dakota Electric. Thank you in advance for your time!



ENERGY ASSISTANCE

For energy assistance resources visit www.dakotaelectric.com/member-services/billing-payment/financial-assistance. 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.



EDITOR'S NOTE:

Due to the timing of printing Circuits, please visit www.dakotaelectric.com for the most up-to-date information on our wholesale power supplier, rebates and programs and energy assistance.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

4300 220th Street West
Farmington, MN 55024

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Board Meeting**
Mar. 31, 8:30 a.m.

Board meetings are being held virtually.

Find board meeting agendas and approved meeting minutes at www.dakotaelectric.com/about-us/monthly-meetings.



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CONNECT WITH US!



RESIDENTIAL MEMBER SURVEY COMING!

*We appreciate your
feedback!*

inside CIRCUITS

MARCH 2022

